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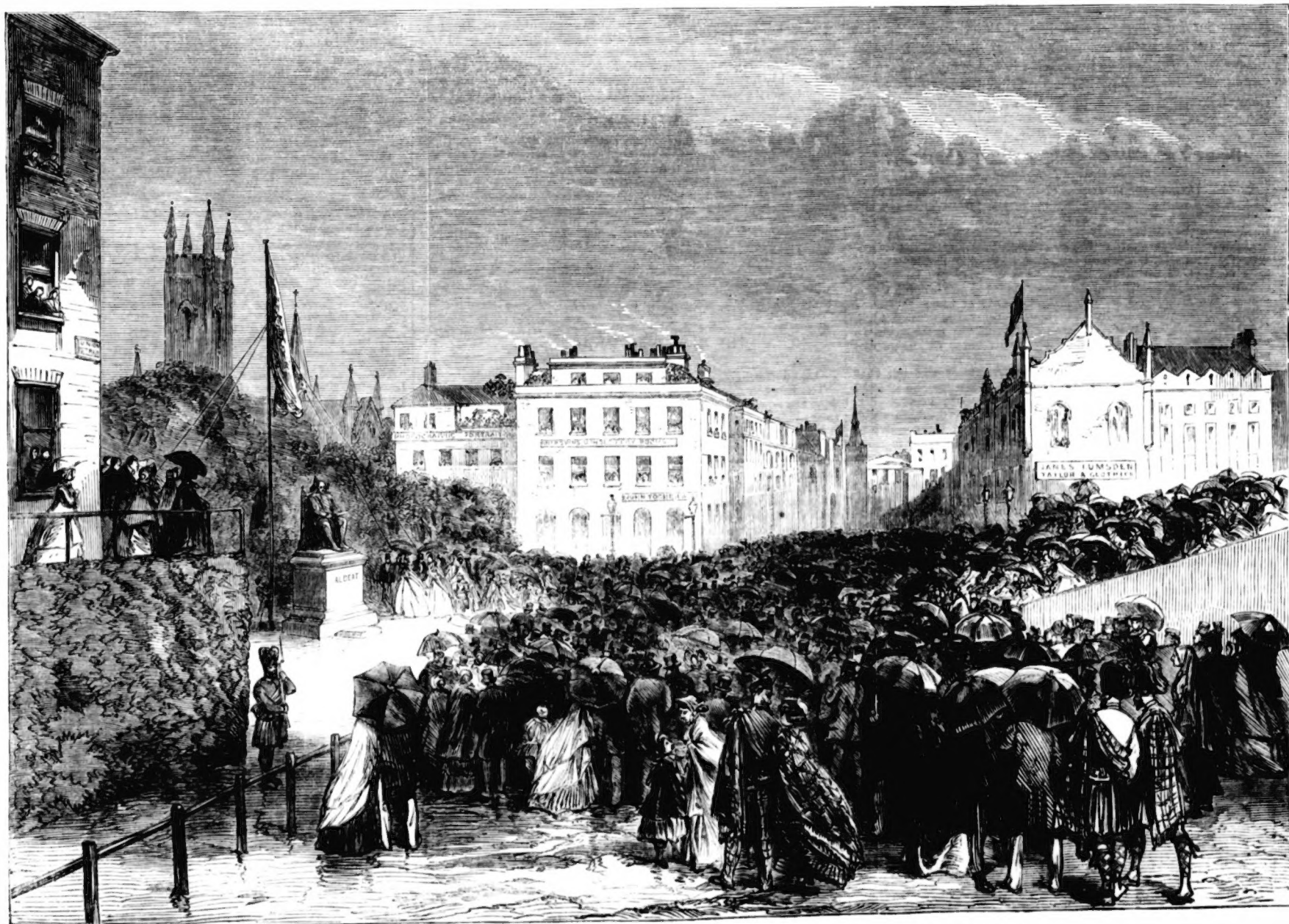
TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

WE have got another "little war" on our hands. Hostilities have broken out in Japan. But the peculiarity of this war is, that though we are fighting *in* Japan, we are not fighting *with* Japan. Our quarrel is not with the Government and people of that country, but with certain powerful chiefs called daimios, who have had the hardihood to set both us and their own Government at defiance. The origin of the matter is somewhat complicated, if not obscure. Some considerable time ago, Lord Elgin concluded with the Japanese Government a treaty of commerce, in which it was stipulated that certain ports of the island should be free to the merchants of all nations, who were to be entitled to reside in the country and to have such establishments there as might be necessary for the purposes of trade. This treaty, which mainly interested the British, the French, the Dutch, the Russians, and the Americans, was sanctioned by both the civil and sacerdotal branches of the Japanese Government, and, it was believed, was agreeable to the people, for they freely availed themselves of its provisions, and a greatly increased commerce sprang up in consequence with each of the peoples mentioned. But the leading nobles, who, both as a class and as individuals, are extremely powerful, were from the first opposed to communication with the rest of the world, and offered every impediment in their power to the carrying out of the provisions of Lord Elgin's treaty. Now, although these nobles might be perfectly entitled to oppose the conclusion of any convention whatever with foreigners, and to shut them out of the country, if they deemed that advisable, they were not justified in

having recourse to some of the means they adopted to hinder the execution of the treaty agreed to. One of these measures was an attack upon the British residency, and another the murder of Mr. Richardson, our Consul at Yokohama, if we remember rightly. For this latter outrage, compensation and the delivery of the murderers into our hands were demanded. Compensation the Tycoon agreed to pay, but alleged that he had not the power to enforce the surrender of the assassins, who were retainers of a certain Prince Satsuma, a powerful daimio. Negotiations were then opened with this Prince in the hope of inducing him to grant the satisfaction demanded; but, no redress being obtained, Admiral Kuper, on the 15th of August, took up a position with his fleet opposite Kagosima, the principal town of the recusant noble. Two shore batteries immediately opened fire upon the fleet, by which it was returned. In a short time the town was in flames in several places; and next day it was reduced to ruins—the palace, factories, arsenal, &c., together with three steamers belonging to Satsuma, being destroyed. This, however, was not accomplished without loss, for the fleet had eleven men killed and thirty-nine wounded, among the former being Captain Gosling, of the *Euryalus*, and Commander Willmott. The shore batteries are reported to have been well served, which, considering the character of the people for bravery, ingenuity, and skill, is not surprising. The destruction of the city of Kagosima, and the chastisement inflicted about the same time upon other daimios by the French and Americans, are pretty sharp lessons. We trust that they will be effective, and that matters will be satisfactorily arranged, for no honour, and

little advantage, can be got from a war with a people like the Japanese, while such a quarrel is certain to involve us in much trouble and no little expense.

We are threatened with a new danger from America; but this last bugbear is even more ludicrous than any previous one with which it has been attempted to frighten John Bull from his propriety. It seems there is an association in the Northern States—principally, if not wholly, composed of Irishmen, but about which so little is known that there was till lately a difficulty as to how to spell its name—which has been formed for the purpose of rescuing Ireland from the domination of the Saxon and instituting there a republic after the model of the United States. Much secrecy was preserved as to the organisation and objects of this redoubtable association which, it seems, glories in the title of the "Fenian Brotherhood," whatever that may mean; but the whole plan of operations has now been disclosed, and we are told by the New York newspapers to tremble in our shoes, because of the terrible things which are about to be done unto us. Well, we are obliged to our Yankee friends for having let us into this mighty secret: forewarned, we can easily be forearmed against any host that General Meagher, of the sword and the cabbage-garden rebellion, and General Corcoran, of the gin-palace bar, are likely to land on our shores. These two heroes are designated as the leaders of the army of Fenians which was to free Ireland, and, if we may be permitted to borrow an elegant Americanism, "utterly squabash" Great Britain. Considering the degree of freedom now enjoyed in America, we fancy Irishmen will not be particularly anxious to



INAUGURATION OF THE STATUE OF THE PRINCE CONSORT AT ABERDEEN IN PRESENCE OF HER MAJESTY.

exchange the rule of Queen Victoria for that of a satrap of President Lincoln, even though he should be General Thomas Francis Meagher, with cabbage-leaves instead of laurel on his brow. As for the mighty hosts and powerful fleets which that doughty champion and General Corcoran are to lead, and the immense stores of material and large sums of money (in "greenbacks," we suppose), which the Government of Washington is to place at their disposal, we should like to know where they are to come from. President Lincoln is sadly at a loss to find men enough to carry on the war he already has on his hands, and is more likely to "use up" the Fenian Brothers on the fields of Secession than to send them across the Atlantic to "free" Ireland and "humble the Saxon." His fleets are insufficient to maintain the blockade of the coasts of the Confederate States, and have, as yet at least, been utterly unable to catch the Alabama. He has no hard cash to spare, and "greenbacks" would hardly, we fear, pass current in the green isle. For supplies of warlike material he is mainly indebted to England, and that source would speedily "dry up" were the Fenian armada to put to sea. Altogether, we don't see much reason for alarm. Generals Meagher, Corcoran, and their followers to the contrary notwithstanding, even though aided by the eight Russian war-ships now in New York harbour, which, as "Manhattan" says, are to convey the 200,000 men who are about to be launched against us. Seriously, however, the conductors of the Yankee newspapers, who have got up this preposterous story of a Fenian invasion, must be either great fools themselves or think that Englishmen are so. If they really believe that such an expedition could possibly be dispatched from America under existing, or, indeed, under any circumstances, they must be marvellously credulous men indeed; and if they fancy they can, by threatening such an invasion, frighten Great Britain from pursuing the policy she thinks right, they must be woefully ignorant of the character of Englishmen. In either case, the force of folly can no further go. And so we may dismiss the Fenian Brothers and their abettors with the contempt and ridicule they have excited and deserve.

There is, however, an evil existing in Ireland which comes from a very different source, and which demands a very different remedy. There seems to be no longer reason to doubt that the population and agricultural prosperity of that country are steadily declining. We print in another column a letter addressed by a Cork magistrate to the *Times*, from which it appears that the acreage under cultivation, the quantity of live stock, and the population of the country, are all less now than they were at any previous period. The facts adduced by the writer referred to are drawn from the statistics published by Mr. Donnelly, the official registrar in Ireland, and are therefore above suspicion. This is a state of things which calls for careful investigation, in order that, if possible, the causes of the evil may be discovered. Bad seasons and the moist character of the Irish climate will not altogether account for the recent falling off in the material wealth of the sister island; for she was always subject to these drawbacks in a greater or less degree. The mischief must lie in other directions as well, and to investigate it will form a not unprofitable task for a Parliamentary Committee or a Royal Commission, one or other of which we hope to see appointed next Session.

INAUGURATION OF THE PRINCE CONSORT MEMORIAL AT ABERDEEN.

In the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* of last week (see page 243) we publish an account of the inauguration of the Memorial to the late Prince Consort at Aberdeen, in presence of her Majesty and several members of the Royal family. We now present our readers with an engraving illustrative of the ceremony of uncovering the statue, which is by Baron Marochetti, and is considered an excellent specimen of this distinguished sculptor's work. It will be a great ornament to Aberdeen, which is rather deficient in public monuments, and at the same time be a lasting memento of the good feeling which subsisted between him whom all are agreed in denominating "Albert the Good" and the inhabitants of the great northern county in which he delighted to spend his hours of leisure and relaxation.

Shortly after the death of the Prince Consort, it was felt that Aberdeen would be a peculiarly appropriate place for the site of a monument to his memory, and, headed by the Lord Provost (Mr. Anderson), the citizens readily commenced the movement, in which they were joined by the noblemen and gentlemen of the country so heartily and liberally, that in a comparatively short time some £3000 was subscribed. After mature consideration as to the form the memorial should take, the committee of subscribers into whose hands the duty was intrusted fixed upon a statue, and, determining that the work should be worthy of him it was to commemorate, gave the commission for its execution to Baron Marochetti. Fortunate thus in their choice of an artist, the committee have been equally happy in the selection of a site for the statue. Everybody who has had occasion to pass through Aberdeen bestows willing admiration upon the beautiful granite of which it is built. In no other town in Britain, perhaps, will the cleanly appearance of the buildings attract reader attention than in the "Granite City;" and this not in consequence of any artificial aids in the way of adornment, but solely in virtue of the white and lasting qualities of the stone peculiar to the quarter. As displaying these qualities to the very best advantage, the Aberdonians speak with pride of the chief thoroughfare of their city, Union-street, which measures about three quarters of a mile in length, and is built and paved exclusively with the favourite granite. One of the most noticeable features in this street is Union Bridge, a handsome structure crossing the valley of the Denburn. Along one side of this valley runs a pleasant wooded terrace, the trees at the south end of which droop, so to speak, over the pavement of Union-street at the south-west corner of the bridge. In this corner stands the memorial of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, and, to be well and readily seen, no fitter spot could have been found in the city. The pedestal on which the statue is placed is of granite, and bears the single word "Albert." The plinth, 10 ft. by 8 ft., is composed of gray dressed granite. Above this is a moulded base of polished red granite. The dia, also of red, or Peterhead, granite, finely polished and surmounted by a cope of the same material, is 5 ft. 8 in. by 4 ft. 2 in., and 4 ft. 2 in. in height. The ornamental part of the pedestal is plain and chaste, consisting of bronze enrichments on the base and cope.

LORD INCHQUIN has been elected an Irish representative peer in the room of the late Lord Downes.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Ministerial arrangements rendered necessary by the death of M. Billault have been completed. M. Rouher is the new Minister of State, and M. Rouland, former Minister of Public Instruction, takes M. Rouher's place as President of the Council of State. The Vice-Presidents are—M. Forcade de la Roquette, former Minister of Finance; M. Chaix d'Est Ange, and M. Vuitry, Governor of the Bank of France. All these are to act as the Government orators. M. Rouher's powers in this way have been already put to the test more than once. M. Forcade de la Roquette has a fair knowledge of finance, though he held the post only for a short time. M. Chaix d'Est Ange long held a high place at the Paris Bar, but he did not realise the expectations of the public as a speaker in the Chamber of Deputies, to which he was elected three times—in 1831, 1837, and 1840. M. Vuitry is, like most of his colleagues, also a lawyer. He held a post in the Department of Public Worship under M. Martin (du Nord), and was appointed Master of Requests to the Council of State in 1846. He was named Councillor by the National Assembly in 1849, and was confirmed in his functions by the Emperor, then President of the Republic, after the *coup d'état*. He had been in 1851 Under-Secretary of Finance with M. Fould. He is a man of acknowledged ability, and a good speaker. M. Baroche has been nominated a Senator, and M. Delangle appointed first President of the Senate.

PRUSSIA.

The preliminary elections in Prussia came off on Tuesday, and, as far as known, have resulted in favour of the Liberals. In Berlin the old Liberal majority had even been increased.

GERMANY.

The celebration of the anniversary of the battle of Leipsic, which in 1813 freed Germany from the domination of Napoleon I., was commenced in that city on the 18th inst. All the survivors of the campaign have been invited to be present, with the exception of the inhabitants of Saxony who have accepted the St. Helena medal from the present Emperor of the French. Banquets have been given to the veterans, the city has been decorated with flags, triumphal arches, &c., and speeches in honour of the day made by a variety of orators of greater or less celebrity. The celebration, so far, has gone off with great éclat.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

News from Constantinople states that the Russian Minister in that city had declared to the Porte that any recognition of the Poles as belligerents by Turkey would be considered by Russia as a declaration of war between the two Powers. The Russians are constructing twelve gun-boats in the Black Sea.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

The Ionian Parliament has resolved that the protectorate of England over the islands shall cease immediately, and that they shall be annexed to Greece. When the young King, therefore, reaches Athens, his kingdom will embrace these late dependencies of the English Crown.

DENMARK AND SWEDEN.

Copenhagen letters state that the Danish Foreign Minister is about to forward a note to the Federal Diet of Germany announcing that Denmark will consider Federal execution in any of her territories to be the opening of hostilities between herself and the Germanic confederation.

The Danish Government is massing a considerable body of troops upon the southern frontier of Schleswig.

The entire Swedish press, with one exception, are unanimous in stating that the stipulations of a treaty of alliance with Denmark are agreed upon, but that the ratification of the treaty will not take place until German troops are dispatched to Holstein.

ST. DOMINGO.

The *Opinion Nationale* of Paris publishes news of the St. Domingo insurrection of a highly important character. According to this account, Santo Domingo is represented as having capitulated on the 1st of September, after three days' siege, and Santana to have retreated to a forest. Santiago is stated to have capitulated, after a sanguinary combat. A chief of the Dominican Republic had been appointed.

JAPAN.

The following telegram has been received at the Foreign Office from her Majesty's Consul-General at Cairo in reference to the war in Japan. The despatch had been received, per Mooltan, from India:—

All hope of negotiations being at end, fleet took up position opposite Kagoshima, prepared for action; two shore batteries opened fire on fleet, which returned it. By dusk town in flames in several places. Three forts silenced. Our loss, 11 killed, 39 wounded. Captains Gosling, "Euryalus," and Wilcott, killed by some shot.

9 P.M.—Whole town in flames. Sunday, August 16, 9 p.m. Fleet stood out engaging the whole of the batteries. City on a mass of ruins—palace, factories, arsenal, &c. Three steamers of Satsuma destroyed completely. Shore batteries reputed well served.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

GENERAL NEWS.

Our advices to New York are to the 12th inst.

The Russian Admiral had accepted an invitation to visit Boston with the squadron. A grand banquet was to be given at New York to the officers of the Russian squadron, to which, after much debate, it had been agreed to invite foreign Consuls and French and British officers.

President Lincoln had appointed Nov. 26 as a day of thanksgiving for Americans at home, at sea, and abroad.

A malignant fever had appeared in the fleet before New Orleans. Its progress was being checked.

Twelve Federal steam-boats, of the aggregate value of 500,000 dol., had been burnt at different points on the Mississippi within two months. It was believed the perpetrators were connected with a conspiracy for the destruction of all the Government transports on the western rivers.

The Hon. Josiah Quincy, of Boston, born a British subject before the Declaration of Independence, and nearly ninety-two years of age, had published a letter, in which he declares compromise between North and South to be impossible. This is the same Mr. Quincy who threatened the secession of Massachusetts in 1802 on the occasion of the purchase of Louisiana.

Mr. Blair, the Postmaster-General, in a speech at a public meeting at Rockville, Maryland, on the 3rd inst., denounced the revolutionary scheme of the Abolitionists to abolish the rights of the Southern States, and declared that it was as much the duty of the President to oppose the designs of the ultra Radicals of the North as to defeat the objects of the nullifiers and Secessionists of the South. He believed that, though apparently aiming at different results, the two parties would in the end be found co-operating, and that both would prefer a division of the States to a union which did not permit of a realisation of their radical ideas. Mr. Seward is understood to agree in the opinions of Mr. Blair, and Mr. Chase and Mr. Stanton to be opposed to them.

WAR NEWS.

The telegraphic summary of the news relating to the movements in Tennessee is very confused. All that is clear is that Rosecranz still held his position at Chattanooga, which he was engaged in fortifying, while General Bragg was following a like course with the position he had taken up on Mission Ridge. One report states that Rosecranz's communications with Nashville (his base of operations) were interrupted, while further and later telegrams declare them to

be open. A rumour had reached Nashville that the Confederates had captured Shelbyville, with all the troops stationed there, said to amount to 15,000 men; but this, again, is contradicted by another statement to the effect that the Confederate cavalry had been defeated below Shelbyville, with a loss of 100 killed. Constant skirmishing was going on between the armies of Rosecranz and Bragg, and it is stated in a Southern despatch that the Confederates, on Missionary Ridge, shelled the position of General Rosecranz for several hours on the 6th inst. It was said that General Bragg had been heavily reinforced from Richmond and elsewhere, and that his forces numbered at least 175,000 men. It was also represented that 55,000 troops, under the command of General Joe Johnston, were held as reserves. On the other hand, General Rosecranz, it was asserted, had been reinforced by two corps from General Meade's army, which, with the troops from other quarters which have been sent forward for the same purpose, would augment General Rosecranz's force to upwards of 30,000 men more than it consisted of previous to the battle of Chickamauga.

The *New York Herald* publishes Southern intelligence, received from private sources, which it believes to be quite reliable, giving the following as the disposition and strength of the Confederate forces:—"Bragg's army is supposed to comprise 100,000 men. General Joe Johnston had 30,000 disciplined troops as a reserve at Kingston, fifteen miles from the battle-field of Chickamauga, also 5000 cavalry under Pillow, and 15,000 Georgia militia. These troops did not fire a shot during the late battle, and were only to be brought up in case Burnside reinforced Rosecranz during the fight. Lee's army is estimated at 90,000 men, the old regiments having been filled up to the maximum by the conscription, 15,000 cavalry, and 320 pieces of artillery. Lee has also a reserve at Richmond of 12,000 men under General Elzy. There are 8000 infantry near Abingdon, Virginia, holding the line of the Virginian and Tennessee Railroad, under General Jones, also 1600 cavalry under Imboden; 6000 infantry, cavalry, and artillery at Charlottesville, under General Garland; 7000 troops guarding the railroad between Petersburg and Weldon; 4000 at Savannah; 6000 at Mobile; 18,000 at Charleston; 2500 at Pollard, Alabama, guarding the approach from Pensacola; and 2500 in Mississippi, under Hardee and Loring. In the Trans-Mississippi Department there are about 65,000 men, comprising the commands of Generals Price, Kirby Smith, Dick Taylor, Magruder, Cobell, Holmes, and Monton."

Confederate accounts from Charleston of the 6th report that on that day an attack was made upon the Federal fleet, in which the frigate Ironsides was considerably damaged and the other vessels of the fleet greatly alarmed for their safety. It is not stated what constituted the attacking force; but, from the fact that three of the crew of the Confederate gun-boat Chicora are reported missing, it is presumed that it consisted of Confederate ironclads. A combined land and naval attack upon Charleston was to take place on the 11th. General Gilmore has shifted his headquarters from Morris Island to Folly Island, considerably further from the city. The Confederates were remounting the guns on the outer face of Fort Sumter.

The Confederates were advancing on Kansas, and had captured General Blunt's Staff; and there was a report that the Federals had been defeated above Fort Hudson, with a loss of 1500 prisoners.

The Confederate army in Virginia were making movements which seemed to indicate a recommencement of offensive operations. A Federal cavalry brigade had encountered Stuart's cavalry while reconnoitring the position near Robertson's River. An engagement ensued. The Federals, being repulsed, retired to Culpepper. General Hill's corps had passed from the left to the right of Meade's front at Blue Ridge Mountain, apparently to get on Meade's right and cut the railroad communication, or else as a ruse to cover an attack upon his front. Bands of Confederate guerrillas infested the country in the rear of the army of the Potomac, and continually made successful raids upon the country towards camps and sutlers' trains. One of these parties on the night of the 1st inst. attacked Fort Beckwith, within ten miles of Washington, killed and wounded several of the guard, took twenty of them prisoners, and captured sixty horses, together with many arms and equipments.

An expedition of land and naval forces sent out by General Foster from Fortress Monroe, on the 4th inst., to some point in North Carolina, had not been heard from up to the 6th inst.

An engagement, on the 2nd inst., at Anderson's Cross-roads, in Kentucky, between the Federal cavalry, under Colonel M'Cook, and a portion of the Confederate General Wheeler's force, was reported to have resulted unfavourably to the Confederates. Colonel M'Cook estimated the Confederates killed and wounded at 120, and claimed to have captured 87 prisoners, besides recovering a large quantity of Federal property which had been captured by General Wheeler.

General Franklin had advanced fifty miles beyond Brashear city without meeting resistance.

General Banks had ordered the conscription in Louisiana. Negroes on the plantations will were to be detailed for service.

THE FENIAN BROTHERHOOD.

The following passage occurs in a recent letter from the New York correspondent of the *Times*:—

It was in this correspondence, some months ago, that the British people were first informed of the existence in this country of a mysterious political society called the Fenian, Fenian, or Pincian Brotherhood, whose members were all Irishmen, and whose objects were the invasion of Ireland and the establishment of an Irish republic. It appears that the true name of this organisation is the *Fenian Brotherhood*; that the secrecy which formerly enveloped their proceedings is no longer to be insisted upon, and that the "Head Centre," or Grand Master, is one Colonel John O'Mahoney, of New York, now a loyal citizen of the United States, but formerly of Dublin, and a rebel against the authority of Great Britain, under Mr. Smith O'Brien in the cabbage-garden. In obedience to a requisition numerous signed by the "centres" or local chiefs of the Brotherhood at Philadelphia, Chicago, Louisville, and other large cities, to the number of sixty or seventy, this functionary has convened a general meeting of the body to assemble at the Fenian Hall, in Chicago, on the 3rd of November next, to debate on "grave and pressing matters." It is stated that Mr. Seward, Archbishop Hughes, and all the politicians in the Union, who are accustomed to court the Irish vote on occasions of emergency, are well aware of the objects of the society, and, what is highly important if it be true, that no Irishman can obtain a commission in the Federal army unless he can prove his affiliation to the Fenians and his sympathy with their designs. It is hinted that immediately on the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by Great Britain, or on a declaration of war on the grievance of the Confederate rams, the Fenians will be let loose upon Ireland, to stir up insurrection; that the Federal Government (if it do not in the interval tumble to pieces) will immediately recognise the Irish as belligerents, and that the shipbuilders of Boston, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia will construct rams, monitors, and ironclads to break any blockade of the Irish coast which the British Government may establish, and that, in one way or another, at least 200,000 Irish and Irish-Americans will enrol themselves in the enterprise, in two armies of 100,000 men each, one under the command of the ex-rebel, General F. T. Meagher, and the other under that of the ex-rebel and rumseller, General Michael Corcoran. The whole story is narrated in one of the sensation journals of this city with all the magnificent phraseology and magnificent bounce, bluster, bragadocio, and exaggeration with which every story of the kind must be introduced if it is to receive any attention from people with appetites so palmed and jaded with highly-seasoned "bumcombe" as those of the great bulk of the Americans. Ireland's deliverance is prophesied as close at hand; the English aristocracy is declared to be in mortal terror of the approaching storm, and the British Government to be ready to yield anything to Mr. Seward on the question of Mr. Laird's rams, or any other that may arise, rather than incur the threatened onslaught of the terrible Fenians.

STATE OF THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.—The last report on the state of the cotton districts shows that the pressure of distress is yielding before the efforts of the relief committees and the operation of the Public Works Act. In December last there were 286,729 persons employed, and 247,239 out of work; and in the first category only 121,129 were in full work. What is the case now? At the end of September there were 267,962 in full work—that is, double the number of December last; 104,193 were on short time, and 160,835 out of work. Thus, it will be seen, the figures are reversed. Those in full work now exceed the total out of work in December, and the number unemployed nearly approaches the number employed at short time at that period. But the figures that best show the gradual progress in employment and the reduction of distress are those which record the diminution of the total numbers relieved from all sources. Those numbers have fallen from 456,788 in January last to 184,625 in September. The diminution has been progressive. The tide turned in January, and ever since that period it has fallen steadily, without a single exception.

WORK IN PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD.

MR. J. STANSFELD, M.P., Junior Lord of the Admiralty, has lately been daily engaged at Portsmouth Dockyard in investigating the dockyard system of account-keeping and the mode of carrying out work in the different departments of the yard. The system of keeping the accounts of the yard may certainly be very much simplified, and there is no doubt Mr. Stansfeld will, in the end, have reason to be satisfied with the reforms he may effect. He will, however, be much less at home in dealing with the great question of labour in the yard. It certainly is a matter of surprise to those who frequently visit our great national dockyards that so little work is done in them. The visitor hears of thousands of persons employed, and yet sees no work executed to be compared with what he would expect in a private yard of the same magnitude. This is precisely the situation at present in Portsmouth Dockyard. Repairs are being made (a work taken in hand certainly not a day too soon), tramways laid down, sheds, stores, and workshops cleaned and whitewashed, ornamental grass-plots formed, trees planted, and hideous old "figure-heads" stuck up in different parts of the yard. There are men at work on the Royal Sovereign certainly, but she is not more than three parts completed, and thirty-five or more hands have been taken off her during the past week, on the plea that employment cannot be found for them on board. There is a delay in the delivery of the armour-plates for her turrets, the officials say, and therefore the men are sent from her to other work. However the case may lie between the Admiralty officials and the contractors, certain it is that now, instead of having the Royal Sovereign aloft by Christmas, as was looked forward to as a certainty a month or two back, that event is postponed until March next. It is impossible to look at the Royal Sovereign without coming to the conclusion that, while the vast resources and labour of Portsmouth yard have been so long employed, and are still employed, in simply converting a broadside into a turret ship, Mr. Laird's yard at Birkenhead—a comparatively petty establishment—turned out three new turret-ships. Can Mr. Stansfeld grapple with this labour question satisfactorily? If he deals with it on the broad basis of an entire reform of the whole system he may achieve, possibly, a satisfactory result; but if he has only power to deal with it on the ground of "retrenchment" he will fail utterly, as others have failed before him. The dockyard "system," like the Admiralty system, is rotten to the core, and to effect any beneficial reform the existing state of things must be entirely swept away and a new one substituted. It is admitted now by all parties, except among those personally interested, that no permanent reform or good of any kind can be effected with the Board of Admiralty until it ceases to be a political board, closely connected with the Ministry of the day. A similar radical change must take place in our dockyards before any permanent good in them can be effected. Take the shipwrights as an example of the employed skilled labour of the yards. A man receives 4s. 6d. per day; he works in a "gang" of twenty, superintended by a "leading hand," who has over him an "inspector," a "foreman" being over all. Now, one man in this twenty may not earn more than 3s. per day, while the man working next to him may earn 6s., yet both are paid alike. A discretionary power of measuring work is vested in the Master Shipwright, but is never exercised except when extra hands are placed on a ship and the work is hurried. In such cases, if a man is found to have shirked his work, he is mulcted in his pay according to the established scale of prices. It is needless to say that if a man is found to have done more than his required quantity of work he is not paid the extra money for it. It certainly seems that here a system of payment according to the work done could be introduced with advantage. It might be so, but not under the present "system." The "leading hand," who has the most immediate charge of the gang of twenty men, is but one of themselves, and receives only 6d. per day over the pay of the men under him. Another aspect from which the employment of labour in our yards may be viewed is in the repairs of ships in commission, say the Channel Fleet. The fleet, or a part, as is at present the case, arrives at Spithead, and every ship requires repairs of some kind or other which must be carried out by the labourers at the yard. Two, perhaps, of the ships go into harbour, and the necessary work goes on without any loss of time beyond what "routine" and "system" impose. The ships at Spithead must remain there, for the moorings in the harbour are taken up by harbour-ships or useless hulks, and therefore there is no room for ships that have come in from sea wanting repairs, however urgently their services may be required, even if an enemy were off in the channel. All the ships, however, must be repaired, and so men and materials are sent off to Spithead. The amount of daily work which can be done by a couple of hundred workmen under such circumstances is very small indeed, as every Commander of a ship that has lain at Spithead "under repairs" can well remember, to his infinite disgust. When a war comes upon us with any great naval power, our "heads of departments" say we should clear off all the old craft up the harbour, even if we shoved them on the mud, and remove the present craft off the dockyard to moorings higher up, so that the moorings off the yard would be available for a dozen ships to come into from sea and lie at during their repairs when not in dock. Now, why should not this be done in times of peace? Why must we wait until a war "comes upon us" to provide the necessary means for the due reception of our ships in harbour on coming in suddenly from sea for repairs or refit? Why, in fact, should we continue squandering so many thousands annually in this one item alone when the remedy is so obvious? Ships and shipwrights have been referred to thus in connection with Mr. Stansfeld's visit to Portsmouth yard simply because they are naturally the most prominent features in our dockyards; but there is no single department in those establishments but what cries out loudly for reform.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

PLYMOUTH.—On Saturday last Mr. Collier, the new Solicitor-General, was re-elected for this borough without opposition.

RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE.—Sir Roundell Palmer, the Attorney-General, was re-elected for Richmond on Saturday last. There was no opposition.

READING.—Mr. George Shaw Lefevre, Liberal, has been elected to fill the vacancy in the representation of Reading caused by the elevation of the late member, Baron Pigott, to the Bench. The hon. gentleman's candidature was unopposed.

BAKSTABLE.—The contest in this borough, which has been a very keen one, has resulted in the election of Mr. Lloyd, the Liberal candidate; the numbers at the close of the poll being—Lloyd, 205; Breunbridge, 284; majority, 21. The Conservatives allege extensive bribery against the supporters of Mr. Lloyd. At the declaration of the poll by the Mayor the most intense excitement prevailed. Fights took place, and the crowd surged so violently against the reporter's box that some of its occupants were compelled to retire. Stewards of mobs were thrown about, and the Mayor and the persons on the hustings had to beat a hasty retreat after declaring the state of the poll.

NEW WINDSOR.—The death of Mr. G. W. Hope has caused a vacancy in the representation of this borough. Captain Hayer, Liberal, who had previously announced his intention of contesting the seat on the first opportunity, is expected to come forward. The Conservatives are also making arrangements to bring forward a candidate.

OXFORD.—Up to the time we write no candidate has formally announced himself for the vacancy in the representation of this city, occasioned by the death of Mr. Lushington. The last rumour is that Mr. C. Neave, who was returned for Oxford in 1857, but was unseated for bribery and corruption, will be brought forward by the extreme Liberal party, in which case Mr. Fletcher, of the Reform Club, who went to contest the seat on the same principles, has pledged himself to withdraw. Sergeant Gascolee and Mr. Cartwright are still spoken of as probable candidates, and there is a desire among other parties to bring forward Mr. A. Peel. The Conservatives indulge the hope that a division among the Liberals will enable them to run a candidate in their interest with a prospect of success.

CRINGLINE IN THE POTTERIES.—The two wonders of cringline have been found so great in the Staffordshire potteries that the principal manufacturers, Messrs. Copeland, Messrs. Minton, and others, have forbidden the use of cringlines on their premises during the hours of work. In one shop alone the loss by breakage of articles swept down by them amounted to £200 a year. The work-beds became too small, and the work was impaired. The workmen have been obliged to the change with almost entire unanimity and good will, and now enter upon their work in garments like those of Greek statues.

MR. WARD BEECHER IN EXETER HALL.

ON Tuesday evening the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, the eminent American pulpit and platform orator, who has now been some time in this country, and has recently delivered addresses on the American question in Glasgow, Liverpool, and other places, delivered what he said would be his last speech in this country in Exeter Hall.

The hall was crammed to suffocation, while at least several thousands were unable to gain admission. Of those present the vast majority were Federal sympathisers, and the few Confederate sympathisers, though persevering in their attempts at hissing, were greatly overmatched. Mr. Beecher, who only gained admission by being carried through the crowd on the shoulders of several policemen, was received with tremendous cheering, and, after some introductory remarks by the chairman, Mr. B. Scott, the City Chamberlain, proceeded with his address.

As this was to be his last public speech in this country, Mr. Beecher said he would glance at his previous history here.

At Manchester I attempted to give a history of the external political movements for fifty years past, so far as was necessary to illustrate the conflict which has broken out in America. At Glasgow I undertook to show the condition of labour necessitated by the unprofitable system of slavery, to show that it brings labour into contempt and fixes on it the badge of degradation; that the struggle across the American continent interests every free working man in the world, for I sincerely believe that the Southern cause is the natural enemy of free labour and the labourer all the world over. In Edinburgh I endeavoured to sketch how out of separate colonies and States there grew up an established nation, and how in that nation of United States two distinct systems of development were formed, and strove for the possession of the government and the control of the national policy; and how, when the North gained control, the South abandoned the Union, simply and only because the government was henceforth to be administered by men who could conduct it for the interests of freedom. In Liverpool I laboured to show that slavery in the long run was hostile to commerce and manufactures all the world over, and to every other interest in human society; that a slave nation must be a poor customer, buying the fewest and cheapest goods at the least profit; that the interests of every manufacturing nation is to promote freedom, and intelligence, and wealth among all nations; that this attempt to cover the fairest portion of the earth with a slave population that buys nothing, and a degraded white population that buys next to nothing, is contrary to all political economy, and must breed a vital want of commerce—not want of cotton, but want of customers. I have endeavoured to enlist against this flagitious wickedness the judgment, the conscience, and the interests of the British people.

The speaker then said he would ask them that night to look at the struggle from an American point of view in its moral aspects—expecting that by the candid consideration of each other's difficulties it would lead them to say of each other that, if mistaken, they were at any rate honest, and so get a settlement of the quarrel, if not of the difficulty.

The contest, he said, was at first a moral one, their trying to persuade the slaveholders to emancipate their slaves, and Southern sensitiveness taking this as an insult, and it then became a political one, the South seeking to force a slave policy on the whole Union, filling judicial and other offices with men pledged to slavery, and corrupting rising politicians by exacting this pledge from them. He said that before the war they could not touch slavery directly, as it was a local institution, as to which he illustrated the position of the States as follows:—"I am not very well posted in your affairs, but the Chamberlain will correct me if I am wrong when I say that I believe that in the city of London there are certain private rights that Parliament cannot meddle with, while there are, of course, other matters in which Parliament is just as supreme over the city of London as over any city or town in the kingdom. That is just the principle of the American Constitution, by which certain local matters belong to the local jurisdiction, and certain general matters to the national Government. I will give you another illustration, which will bring it more home to your heads and bosoms. There is not a street in London where, one shut in his house, a householder may not say, 'My house is my castle.' There is no law in the realm which shall decide of how many members his family shall consist, how he shall dress his children, when they shall get up and when they shall go to bed, or how many meals they shall have. There is no law to regulate the interior economy of a householder, and yet there are many respects in which every householder is bound by the common out-in-the-street law. Our States are householders free to regulate their private interior economy, yet subject to the general Government in matters which are national and governmental." He gave partnership as another illustration. It was only in partnership affairs that partners could interfere with each other. He claimed great credit to the North for their fidelity to State rights.

How, then, did the nation pass from a conflict with the Southern policy to a direct attack on slavery itself?

Because, said Mr. Beecher, in an ill-advised hour, according to the opinion of that wisest man of the South, Mr. Stephens, they beleaguered the National Government and the national life with the institution of slavery; and they obliged the People and the sworn President, who was put under oath to defend that Constitution and the National Government, to take their choice between the safety and the life of Government itself and the slavery with which it was beleaguered. If a man lays down anything in the street and blocks up the passage, so as to force people to walk over it, it is not the fault of the people who walk over it, but of those who placed it in the way. As, with an individual, the fundamental right of self-defence cannot be withdrawn without immorality, so the first element of national life is the right to defend that life; and, as no man attacked in the highway violates the law, but obeys the law—that is, the necessity of defending the law—by knocking down his assailant, so when any nation is assailed by any local interest, or by any foreign State, or by any interest whatever, it is the right and duty of that nation, in the exercise of the right of self-defence, to destroy that enemy, which, if not destroyed, would destroy it. As long as the South would allow the conflict to be a merely political one, we were content to meet the issue as one of policy, but when they threw down the gauntlet and said, "Slavery shall go to the adjudication of war," we could do no other than accept the challenge.

Mr. Beecher then defended the proclamation of Mr. Lincoln by saying that though the right to issue it was political the disposition to do it was not. As a doctor could not cure the son of his neighbour unless called in professionally, so it was not till slavery had been lifted out of its place from a local institution, and made a public enemy, that they could deal with it. As to letting the South go:—

Oh! if the Southerners only would go! But the fact is, they are determined to stay. That is the trouble. We would gladly furnish them with a free passage if they would take their departure; but then we say, "that territory which you inhabit is ours, and we do not choose to have it wrested from us."

He did not wish, however, to use *ad captandum* arguments, and proceeded—

The war commenced under circumstances which obliged the North to join issue in order to prevent actual humiliation and subjugation. The Southerners had in their hands the keys of the country. They had robbed our arsenals; they had made bankrupt our treasury; they had possession of the most important offices in the army and navy; they had the advantage of having long anticipated and prepared for the conflict. We, on the contrary, knew not whom to trust. Men pensioned by the Government had lived on the salaries paid them by that Government only to betray it. There was but one Judas in the disciple band. There were in our country a thousand; and for the North to lie down like a spendid and to have given up the territory which we had been taught to regard as a sacred right and trust without a blow would have been to have marked her to all eternity as mean and craven beyond expression. In the second place, the honour and safety of the grand experiment of self-government by free institutions demanded that so flagitious a violation of the freedom of vote should not be suffered to pass with impunity, as that a minority, when outvoted, should be able to turn round and to say to the majority, "If you do not give us our way we shall have recourse to war." Would you Englishmen, let me ask, allow a minority to dictate to you after such a fashion?

As to the States owning their own territory, that very question had arisen when the States sat in convention to frame a union, and the proposition to form a Confederacy instead of a National Government was voted down and never came up again. It had, however, been galvanised into life as a specious argument to justify secession.

I should like to ask Englishmen who are upholders of this doctrine as applied to America how they would like this experiment tried in the case of Kent, the county from which I derive my blood? I would like to ask him who bows out in favour of Southern secession what would be his feelings if he were to read some fine morning at his breakfast the intelligence that Kent had set up for itself as an independent kingdom on your southern coast? Would he think the step justifiable? If not, why should he seek to apply to us a different principle, seeing that the course which we took was rendered necessary for the maintenance of national territory, of national civilisation, and national law; and that, over and above these political considerations, and Mississippi, which is our southern door to go in and out, was only to be open for our use owing to the magnificent pleasure of the seceding States. I should wish to hear what one of you gentlemen would say if on returning home he found a squad of gipsies in his front hall who refused to be ejected,

but who still expressed their willingness to let him go in and out when he had a mind.

The rev. gentlemen then said the question of national honour was involved. They could not desert the loyal Union men of Georgia, North Carolina, East Tennessee, and Western Virginia. Nor could they suffer the South to establish a line of fires for 1500 miles as their Southern boundary.

A people who never kept faith in the Union we know would never keep faith out of it. They disturbed the land, as did old Ahab of cursed memory; and when liberty found this Ahab in the way he said to her, "Art thou it that disturbeth Israel?" We know the nature of this people; we know that a truce with them would be to create a cloud breeding thunder and lightning, and simply to furnish them with time, means, and opportunity to renew their purposes to take possession of an entire continent in the name of the devil and of slavery.

Farther, they looked upon the question as a religious one, and, while they were sending missionaries to the heathen, they were not to be condemned if nearer home they refused to let slavery run about mad. He proceeded:—

The considerations which I have laid before you are not exaggerated. No man can understand how powerful they are until he stands in the midst of us in America. We believe that this war is a test of our institutions. We believe it to be a life-and-death struggle between two principles—liberty and slavery. We believe ours to be the cause of the common people all the world over. We are firmly persuaded that every struggling nationality on the face of the globe will be stronger if we conquer, and that every oppressed people will be weaker if we are pushed to the wall. Every sober American regards the present contest as a phase of that glorious struggle which has been going on in every nation for years, between right and wrong, between virtue and vice, between liberty and despotism, freedom and bondage. It bears with it the whole future condition of our vast continent, its laws, its policy, its very fall and standing. In view of all these tremendous realities we have laid all that we have—our children, our wealth, our national strength—upon the altar of our country, believing it to be better that all the North possesses should perish than that we should betray this hope of the oppressed—the Western civilisation.

In conclusion, Mr. Beecher said—

Since I have come hither, since you have told me the truth, since I am permitted to bear back the assurance that popular sympathy in England is with us, since I have such significant facts to refer to as the detention of those rams in Liverpool, and such words as those spoken by Earl Russell at Blairgowrie, and those spoken also by the Attorney-General to recall, I feel that I have that to bear with me which will come home warm and sweet to the American heart. One in civilisation, one in religion, one in substantial feeling, let us be one in national policy, one in every enterprise for the furtherance of the Gospel and for the happiness of mankind.

IRELAND.

AN IRISH SABBATH-BREAKING CASE.—At the recent Sigo Sessions, head constable O'Donnell charged Michael Hart and four others with a breach of the sabbath, and all the delinquents, male and female, were fined. For a fortnight previous the weather was very wet, with the exception of a day or two, of which Sunday, the 4th, was one. On that day Michael Hart, Patrick Hart, Joseph Deignan, and John Deignan, all sober, well-conducted young men, knowing that a field of oats belonging to Margaret Lynch, a widow, was in a critical position, on that Sabbath day they set to "drawing the corn and making a stack of it." For performing this work of charity the four men were summoned to the sessions. Mr. Howley said, "I am sorry that the case was brought forward, more particularly as it was for a poor widow they were working. However, as it is brought before us, we must do our duty." Michael Hart said it was after five o'clock at the time, and they were assisting the widow; the weather had been so wet for some time. Mr. Howley—"The magistrates are obliged to carry out the law. You may have supposed you were doing an act of charity by working for a poor widow, but we must inflict a fine." His Worship here, in a lower tone, said, "We must make the fine as small as we can," and asked the Sessions clerk what was the minimum penalty. He then said, "We shall inflict the lowest fine the law allows, that is 10d. each and costs." You should have taken some other day; but it is unavoidable our convicting.

SCOTLAND.

JOKE OR EARNEST?—The Rev. Dr. Alexander, in a speech delivered at Hamilton lately, related a story of a half-witted man who was in the habit of saying his prayers in a field behind a turf-dyke. One day this individual was followed to his retirement by some evil-disposed persons, who, secreting themselves on the opposite side, prepared to listen to what he should say. Jock commenced his devotions, and, among other things, expressed his conviction that he was a very great sinner, and that even were the turf-dyke at that moment to fall upon him it would be no more than he deserved. No sooner had he said this than the persons on the opposite side pushed the dyke over upon him. Scrambling out from amongst the debris, Jock was heard saying, "Hech, Sirs! It's an awfu' world this; a body canna say a thing in joke but it's ta'en in earnest."

THE PROVINCES.

ROMANTIC STORY.—Upwards of thirty years ago a marriage took place in the neighbourhood of Liverpool, the man and wife being in humble circumstances. After living together till after the birth of a child, the husband went to Australia to seek his fortune. His wife never heard from him after he left her, and, supposing he was dead, on the lapse of seven years she married a widower with three children. To this number in her second married life she added five, making her whole family, including the child by her first husband, nine in all. Some time since the second husband died, and she was left to struggle with her large family. To her great surprise, at the beginning of the present year her first husband made his appearance at Liverpool. During his thirty years' absence he had prospered in Australia, and was a large landed proprietor there. He had heard of his wife's second marriage, but as the fault was his, he never thought of returning to England until he heard of the death of the second husband. To make amends for his former neglect of his wife—for notwithstanding her second marriage she was still his wife—he behaved in the most handsome manner to all her children, gave them costly outfits, and has taken them and the wife of his early affections out with him to the land of his adoption. The wife, who has thus, after an absence of more than thirty years, been restored to her position, is now about seventy years of age.

IRON SHIP-BUILDING AT NEWPORT AND CARDIFF.—The Tyne and Clyde shipbuilders are likely to meet with a spirited opposition before long in iron shipbuilding from the Welsh ports. The Newport Wood and Iron Shipbuilding Company have purchased an extensive private ship-building yard at Newport, and arrangements are in progress with the view of building iron ships. Negotiations which have been going on for some time between the trustees of the Marquis of Bute and Mr. Scott Russell have terminated successfully, and the latter gentleman has entered into arrangements to establish an iron shipbuilding dry dock near the mouth of the Taff, at Cardiff. No time is to be lost in constructing the dock, as Mr. Scott Russell has accepted contracts for building three iron ships, and the same are to be completed within a specified period. From the proximity of both Newport and Cardiff to the coal and iron districts of South Wales, and the consequent cheapness of iron and fuel, it is believed that iron shipbuilding can be carried on so as to be able to successfully compete with the Tyne and Clyde shipbuilders.

A GHOST IN THE CUPBOARD.—A curious case formed a subject for investigation at the police-court, Taunton, last week. About two months since an invalid girl, named Mary Ann Parker, suddenly disappeared, and the fact of its being believed that she had been unable to leave her bed for months, connected with her sudden disappearance, led to the suspicion that she had been unfairly dealt with, and grave hints were thrown out that she had been murdered. The rumours were brought under the notice of Mr. Superintendent Goldsmith, who investigated the matter, but with no result. Suspicion fell on the woman with whom she lodged, who then told the following remarkable story, which now turns out to be true, but was not believed at the time. During the summer the girl Barber lodged at her house in Trinity district, keeping her bed entirely, during a portion of which time she was visited by the Rev. Mr. Dunsen, or other charitable persons, who daily looked for her demise, so ill did she appear, apparently taking no food to sustain life. In the house were other girls, who went out to daily labour, and who invariably complained, on their return, that some of their victims had mysteriously disappeared. One day a little girl, on the return of the landlady, told her that Mary Ann, the invalid, had been down stairs in her night-dress, and had been to the cupboard and taken more victuals. When Mary Ann was told of this she stoutly denied it, and asserted that the girl must have seen her ghost, and doubtless it was a token that she should possibly die. One day in August, the food in the cupboard continuing to disappear, the landlady resorted to stratagem to discover the thief, and told Mary Ann that she was going out and should not be home for several hours. She locked the front door, and apparently left the house, but at once got in again by the back way, and crept herself in the cupboard. In the course of half an hour she heard footsteps coming down stairs, and then the door of the cupboard was opened, discovering to the landlady the ghost of Mary Ann, and to Mary Ann the ghost of her landlady. Both were too much frightened to speak at first, but the affair ended in Mary Ann being ordered to leave the house the next day. Early in the morning Mary Ann and the ghost had vanished, taking with her some of the apparel belonging to her fellow-lodger. A day or two since she returned to the town, and was at once given into custody on a charge of vagrancy. These facts having been deposited to the idea of her murder was dispelled, and Mary Ann was sent to gaol for fourteen days' hard labour.



THE KING OF THE HELLENES IN HIS GREEK COSTUME.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY M. FRANCK.)

before the hour fixed for his departure, and while the platform (which was carpeted) was strewn with flowers, a costly and magnificent bouquet was presented to the King by Mr. E. B. Caralambi. Amongst the gentlemen present were Messrs. A. C. Ionides, the Greek Consul-General, and his son, Mr. E. C. Ionides; Rodocanachi, Mavro-ianni, Cladda, Cephalo, A. G. Ralli, Nickelas, Vontzinas, Isoncanakis, Chacalambi, Zizolia, Scaramanga, Da Malas, B. Melas, Corialignio, Franghiadi, &c. Mrs. A. C. Ionides and family were also present.
The King arrived at the station at a few minutes past nine, and was received on



RUMBERG SING, MAHARAJAH OF CASHMERE.

THE KING OF THE GREEKS.

GEORGE THE FIRST, the elected King of the Greeks, has spent the last week or two of his private life in visiting the three protecting Courts which indorsed his right, previous to assuming the sovereignty of his people at Athens.

Russia was the first object of his courtesy, and he was received by the Czar with impressive warmth and truly Royal honours, which were continued during a six days' sojourn, after which he returned to Copenhagen to prepare for his journey to England, where he has bidden farewell to his sister, who, like himself, quitted Denmark for a Royal destiny.

Wherever the young King may go he will assuredly receive no more enthusiastic tokens of regard than those exhibited by the Greek residents of London, who had assembled to witness his departure for Paris on Wednesday, the 14th instant.

His Majesty proceeded by way of Dover by the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, a spacious saloon-carriage having been attached to the morning express-train for the use of himself and his suite. Many of the principal representatives of the Greeks in London assembled at the station long



PACKING CASHMERE SHAWLS.

the part of the company by Sir Cusack Patrick Roney, by Mr. Bishop, the superintendent, and by Mr. A. C. Ionides, the Consul-General. His Majesty was accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, Prince Christian of Denmark, Prince Frederick, and the Duke of Cambridge. The King was also accompanied by Count Sponeck, Baron Guldencrone, Lieutenant Leth, Dr. Philemon, and Professor Koeppen. Captain Grey was in attendance on the Prince of Wales.

His Majesty's appearance was the signal for a complete outburst of cheering, and, after taking a warm farewell of his family, including his Royal brother-in-law, he presented Mr. A. C. Ionides with his carte de visite, to which he appended his autograph as he sat in the carriage. As the train moved slowly out of the station the new Monarch was cheered by the ringing note of his Anglo-Greek subjects, which continued till he was out of hearing.

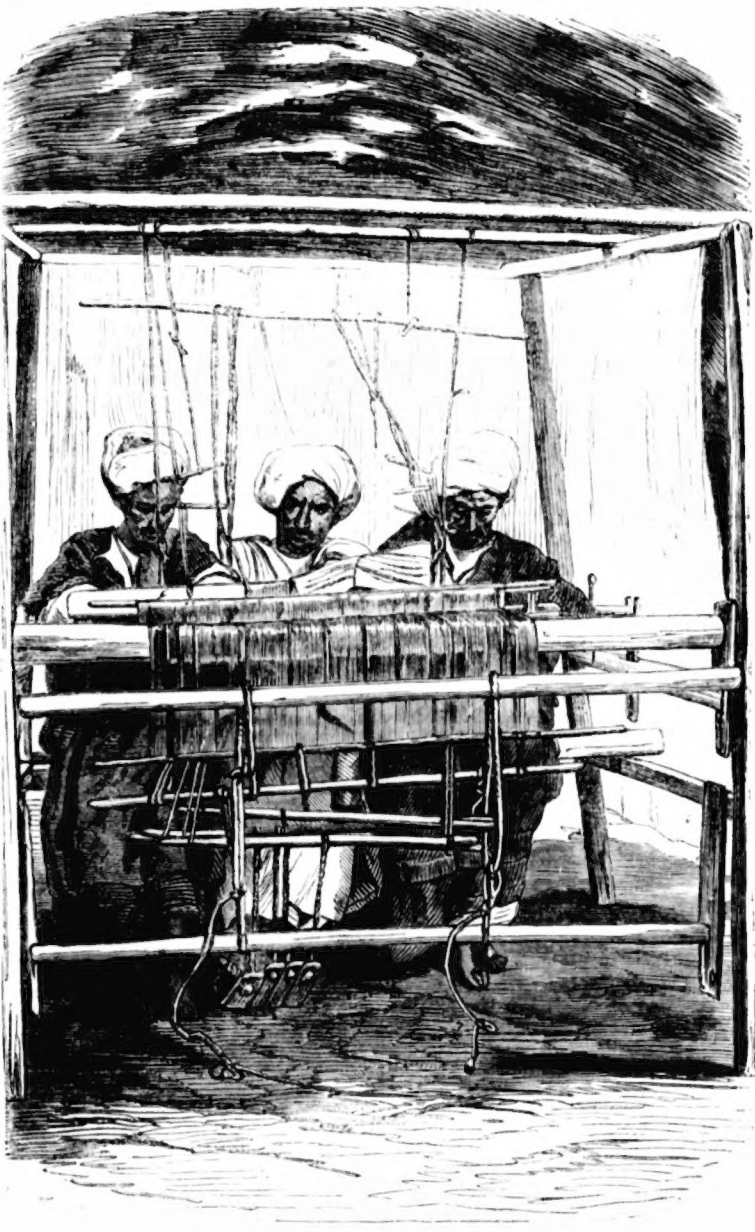
Having arrived in Paris on the evening of the same day, his Majesty took up his residence at the Tuileries, on the invitation of the Emperor; but it is understood that he is travelling incognito, under the title of Count Fionie. On his departure from Paris he will embark at Toulon, on board the Greek frigate Hellas, for his kingdom.



WOMAN OF CASHMERE.



WORKMEN JOINING TOGETHER THE VARIOUS PIECES OF WHICH CASHMERE SHAWLS ARE COMPOSED.



CASHMERE SHAWL WEAVERS AT WORK.

CASHMERE AND ITS SHAWL MANUFACTURES.

THE present relation of the British Government to Cashmere, and the facilities which are being created, by means of the extension of railways in India, for opening increased communication with the whole territory, will give our readers some interest in the accompanying Engravings, which illustrate the principal manufacture of this most northern portion of Hindostan which formed a part of the Punjab dominion.

Cashmere, which, after its long occupation by the Afghans, fell into the possession of Runjeet Singh, embraces the upper valley of the river Jhelum, or Behat, and is, in fact, a valley surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains, except at the south-west corner, where the river issues through a deep cleft in the mountain border. Of these mountains, those of the north are the highest, while the southern heights are covered with forests of pine and deciduous trees. The numerous passes to the valley of the Chenab and the plains of India vary in height from 10,000 to 14,000 feet. All the ranges pass the snow-line, and the transverse valleys running into the chains are well cultivated in their lower parts; while higher up the scenery of rocks, woods, and waterfalls is of a magnificent character, many of them resounding with the echoes of sweeping avalanches and oozened glaciers.

Who has not heard of the
Vale of Cashmere,
With its roses the bright-
est that earth ever gave,

sings the poet; and although allowance must be made for enthusiasm, and many of the low-lying swamps are rendered unhealthy by spring rains and autumn malaria, it is certainly the most delightful region in India—a great natural garden, containing fruits and flowers of the European order, and almost fenced in from the rest of the world by its mountain wall. So beautiful is the aspect of the country, that old Francis Bernier, who lived there for three months during his travels, calls it the Terrestrial Paradise of the Indies, and "The Feast of Roses" became celebrated in Europe two centuries before the birth of the author of "Lalla Rookh."

It is to this poem, however, that most of us owe our impressions of the Vale of Cashmere, with its principal lake dotted with fairy islands and set with harbours and tall large-leaved aspens; and the beauty and symmetry of the people, and especially the beauty of the women, are celebrated all over the East. Unfortunately, their reputation is not confined to the superiority of their personal appearance:—"The Cashmerians," says Elphinstone, "are a distinct nation of the Hindoo stock, and differ in language and manners from all their neighbours. The men are remarkably stout, active, and industrious. They are excessively addicted to pleasure,

and are notorious all over the East for falsehood and cunning." The city of Cashmere is without walls (a rare thing in Hindostan), and lies in the valley on the shore of the Sweet Lake, and about two leagues from the mountains, which form a semicircle behind it. As it traverses the town, the river is spanned by two or three wooden bridges, and the houses, though mostly built of wood, are neat, tolerably commodious, and often elegant, some of them being three stories in height. Those which face the river have gardens running down close to the water's edge, while those situated at some distance stand on canals communicating with the lake.

The slopes of the hills—where the climate is most salubrious—are covered with pleasure-grounds and country houses, which have such a fine appearance that one scarcely wonders at the Mogul Jehanghira declaring that he would rather lose all the rest of his empire than part with Cashmere.

Rumberg Singh, the Maharajah of Cashmere, was elevated to the throne on the death of his father, Goulab Singh, in 1857. The late Rajah was well known as the Minister of Runjeet Singh, the old



SIKH, SOWAR, AND SEPOY, SOLDIERS OF THE RAJAH'S ARMY.

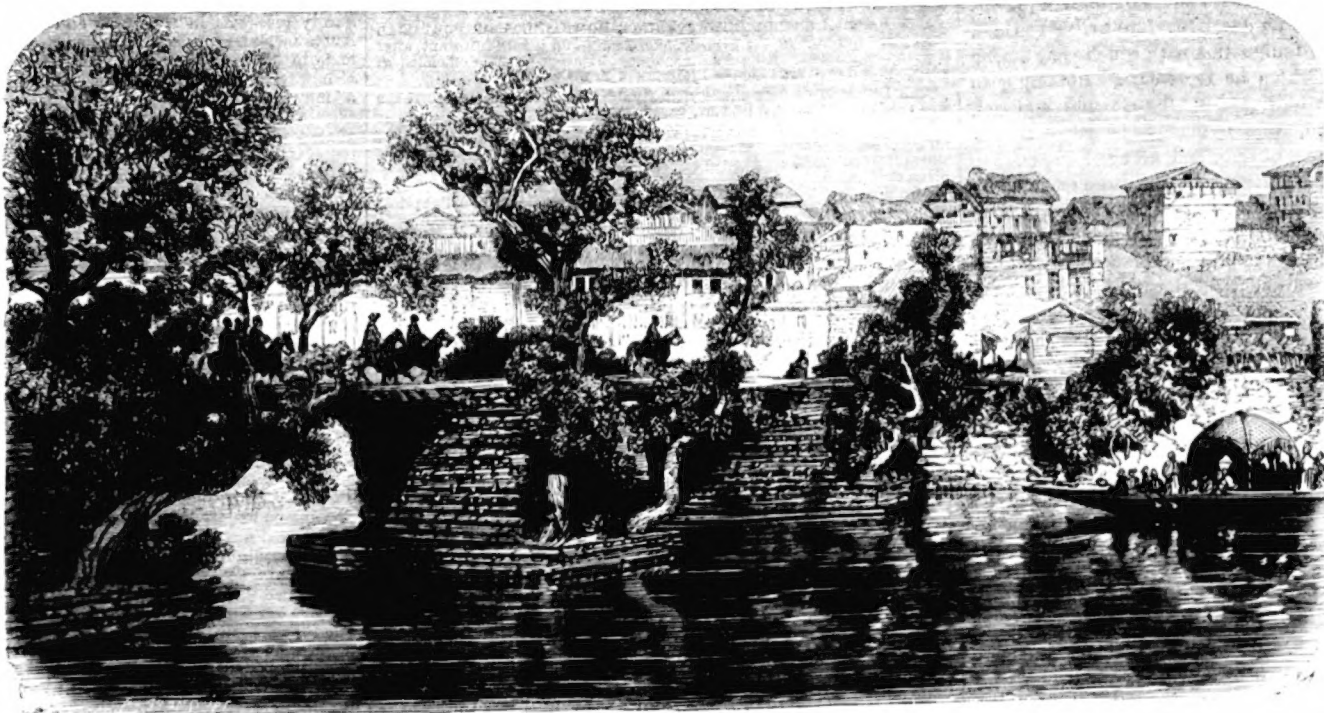
of his people, his principal desire being to institute a complete commercial alliance between Cashmere and British India, although they are separated by the great chain of the Himalaya mountains.

Although he professes the Sikh religion, which, differing from that of the Hindoos, yet forbids his joining in public repasts, he exhibits a splendid hospitality by numerous feasts and assemblies, to which he invites the European visitors who seek the pure mountain air of Cashmere, and his Court is characterised by a scrupulous etiquette which distinguishes it from those of many other native rulers. The army of Cashmere was of sufficient importance to render material aid to the British troops at the taking of Delhi, and the Maharajah was among the first to receive the decoration of the Star of India.

Some of the native soldiers are represented in one of our Engravings, and many of the native troops are even more strangely caparisoned. There are only a few cavalry regiments in the service, and these are retained at Yammu, the second capital of the kingdom, situated in the plain on the frontier of the Punjab. But, besides several infantry regiments instructed in European tactics, the Maharajah commands a force of mountain artillery, which, for well-skilled practice, will bear comparison with similar forces in Europe.

The kingdom contains ten towns and 2000 villages in its area of about 4500 square miles; and, besides great wealth in vegetable productions, possesses some manufactures of firearms of beautiful workmanship, lacquered ware, saddlery, and paper. The principal trade of Cashmere, however, is in those exquisite shawls which have been celebrated for ages, although the demand for them has now so considerably declined. Under the Mogul Emperors as many as 40,000 looms are said to have been employed in this production. These decreased to 16,000 during the Afghan rule; and now the number probably does not exceed 5000. The material employed for the manufacture is the inner fur of a species of goat which is principally reared upon the

table-land of Thibet, at an elevation of 14,000 ft. to 16,000 ft.; and the first cost of this valuable wool when purchased at Kilghil, in Thibet, is two shillings a pound. Expensive as is the material, however, its cost is nothing to that of the labour employed in its manufacture. Of the finest shawls not more than half an inch is completed in a day, although three workmen are employed on each piece, the shawl being composed of a number of separate pieces, which, as they rarely correspond in size, will account for that peculiar defectiveness which is often to be observed in the real "Cashmeres." The operation of the manufacturers is, of course, slow, in proportion



THE CITY OF CASHMERE.

King of Lahore, of whom some particulars recently appeared in our columns, and at his death obtained from the British Government a cession of the territory of Cashmere.

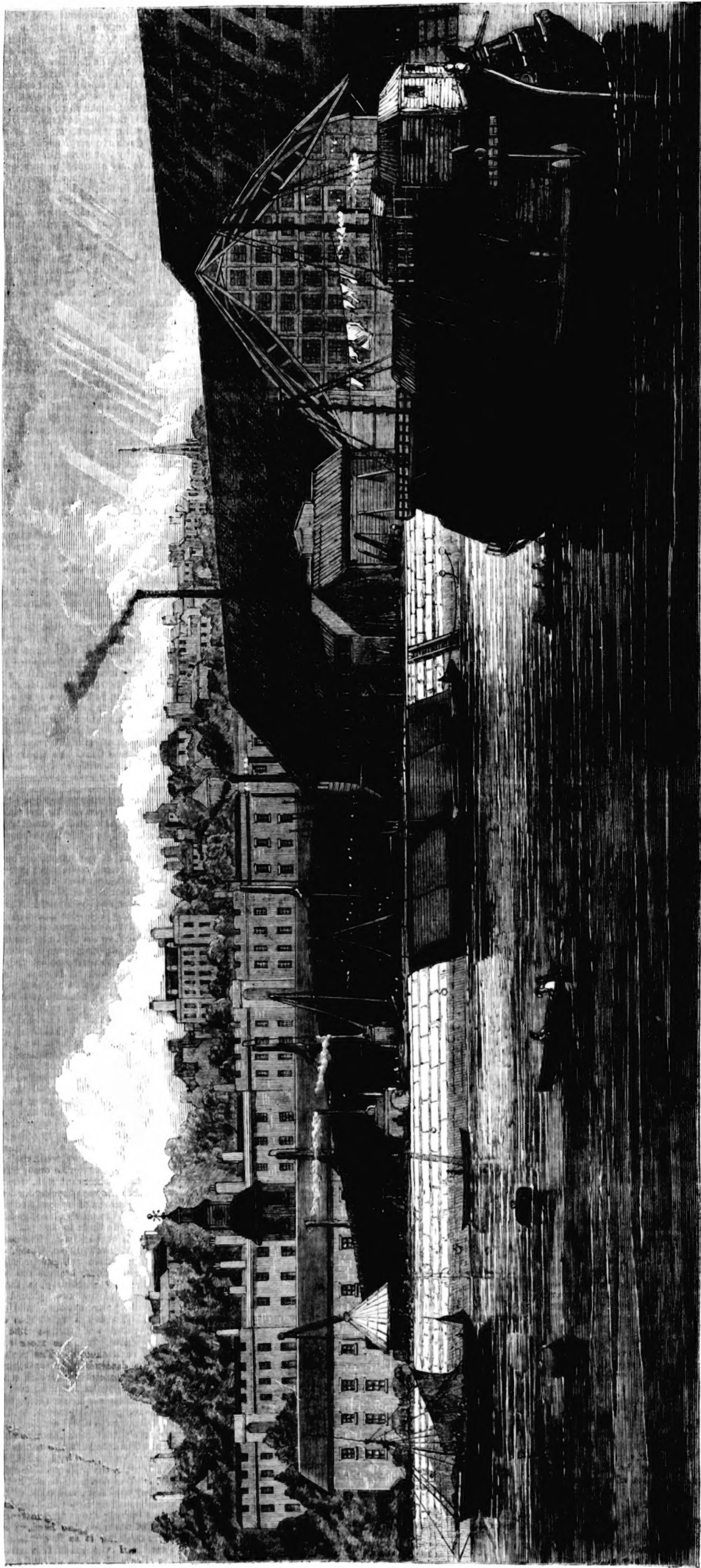
The present Maharajah is twenty-eight years of age, and, as will be seen from our Engraving, possesses a fine face and a commanding figure. His appearance is striking to a degree seldom observed even amongst his countrymen, and seems, in some sense, to indicate his mental qualities. He constantly associates with Europeans and finds pleasure in their society, endeavouring to profit by their advice by adopting such a system of government as will best secure the welfare

THE CONDITION OF THE POOR IN BETHNAL-GREEN.
THAT the death of two children of tender years should have been the means of directing not only public but high official attention to the parish of Bethnal-green, is, on the first hearing, a matter to excite surprise. Surprised, that is to say, on the part of people who, in a long acquaintance with the neighbourhood, have ceased to wonder at the altogether exceptional number of poor funerals which may be seen in that parish during any Sunday afternoon in summer time. It is probable that the disease to which these two little creatures fell victims would have been passed by in the returns of deaths by epidemic disorders, and that all inquiry would have been deferred until some more than ordinarily mortal pestilence frightened official indifference, had it not happened that a coroner's inquest was called to consider the cause of their deaths. On this inquest the medical officer declared in his evidence that both children had died by "blood poisoning,"

which he ascribed to the impurity of the dwellings in that particular locality.
With the very pretty quarrel which seems to have resulted between the parochial authorities and that medical officer we have very little to do; it is enough for the present to know that the verdict (returned in accordance with the evidence) has had some effect, and that a letter has been dispatched from the Home Office to the vestry of Bethnal-green. This letter requires information as to what steps the parochial authorities have taken to remedy the "lamentable state of things in Thorold-square," in order to prevent future blood disease from want of water and sanitary measures, and also what has been done, or is proposed to be done, for ensuring the observance of such sanitary measures throughout the parish. The reply of the vestry-clerk to this communication merits attention, since it is, in some sense, a fair specimen of the manner in which such

official demands are responded to. We shall only consider its two final clauses, however. They state:—
"The vestry have a very intelligent medical officer of health, and also have an inspector of nuisances; and, under the provisions of the Nuisances Removal Act, a standing committee of six members of the vestry was appointed to carry that Act into execution, who meet as and when occasion requires."
"No doubt there are instances of wretchedness in the parish, from time to time, demanding the attention of the authorities; and it is perhaps too much to hope that such cases can ever be wholly got rid of; but I am informed that the general sanitary condition of the parish will not suffer by contrast with any other parish with which it may be fairly compared."
With respect to the last assertion, it may be conceded that in such a parish it would be too much to hope that instances of wretchedness demanding

(from time to time) the attention of the authorities will be entirely got rid of during the present administration. It must also be admitted that the general sanitary condition of that parish will not suffer by comparison with that of any other parish which is as bad in this respect as itself, if such a fit comparison can be discovered. On the preceding clause we have a word or two to say.
We have now before us the return of the medical officer of health above alluded to for the year 1862. It is evidently a carefully compiled pamphlet, and, as a table of comparative rates of mortality and distinctions of various diseases, is worthy of great commendation. It certainly does not very particularly indicate the precise causes of some of the disorders which were last year so alarmingly prevalent, nor does it point out the exact localities in which these "insalubrities" to which it refers are most obvious. It is, perhaps, not the province of such a report to do either the one or the other;



THE ACHILLES IRON-CLAD FRIGATE RECENTLY LAUNCHED AT CHATHAM DOCKYARD.

but, almost on its first page, we read that "Bethnal-green, in 1862, attained the unenviable mortality of 237; a mortality lower, indeed, by 469 than in the cholera year, 1849, but higher by 100 than when cholera prevailed in 1854. It figured also 38 higher than its average for the last ten years."
"As the epidemic frequency is 'a most important testimony to the salubrity or insalubrity of a district,' I cannot but regret that it told strongly 'against us last year.'"
"Scarlatina (continues the report), the ruling epidemic (with diphtheria), cut off 192, an amount more than double its onslaught in the year before. In one house in Bethnal-green-road five children of the ages of fifteen months, of two, five, eight, and eleven years were swept away. These cases are recorded in the Registrar's return as 'aggravated by the febrile exhalations of an adjoining sausage factory.' 'Occasionally scarlatina is more fatal than

even typhus, and approaches nearer to the nature of plague than any other disease.' Such pestilences not only 'spread by contagion, but from time to time arise up here and there *de novo* out of the malaria, or the defective drainage, or the want of ventilation.'"
It may be remarked, in passing, that even the mortality of a district is not the only argument for its being placed under legislative control, since the very conditions which produce such deadly results have a perhaps equally terrible effect in the wretchedness and moral depression of the inhabitants; but on the medical side of the question we learn, further, that in Bethnal-green last year the ratio of deaths by epidemic exceeded that of London by nearly 6 per cent; that while London lost 1 in 786 by fever, Bethnal-green lost 1 in 683, and that of every 1000 living infants under five years of age London lost about eight less than Bethnal-green.
With this we take leave of the medical officer, sincerely thanking him

for his information. We wish we could part as satisfactorily with the Inspector of Nuisances; but either this gentleman must have a very broad sense of humour indeed, or he must have become entirely impervious to any degree of publicity whatever; on the other hand, unless there are more inspectors than one, the vestry clerk must have counted very confidently on that immunity from troublesome questions which Bethnal-green seems so long to have enjoyed. At about the time this correspondence with the Home Office was going forward, a meeting of the parochial authorities—under whose auspices it was called, and, we suppose, conducted—it was stated by the chairman that the Inspector of Nuisances had a matter he wished to bring before the board; and that as he (the inspector) was rather nervous, he (the chairman) would bespeak the patience of the board on his behalf. On being sent for, the Inspector of Nuisances was found to have a grievance, which was, in substance, as follows:—He said

he believed he was Inspector of Nuisances, and in that capacity it was his duty to visit slaughter-houses, and also to see if they were in a proper state to be licensed. He would be plain, and say that there were some privileges attached to this, as the butchers usually gave the officer a fee. He wished to complain that the beadle had usurped his privileges by going round promising his assistance in obtaining the license, and had pocketed the money; and he need not remind them of the old adage, "that it was difficult to take butter out of the mouth of a dog."
The Chairman said they did not require to hear anything of butter or dogs, but simply his complaint.
Mr. Morris, the inspector, said that was what he had to complain of, and he would feel obliged if the board would assist him.
The difficulties of cleansing and purifying Bethnal-green will assuredly not be lessened by a system which recognises, without explanation, such



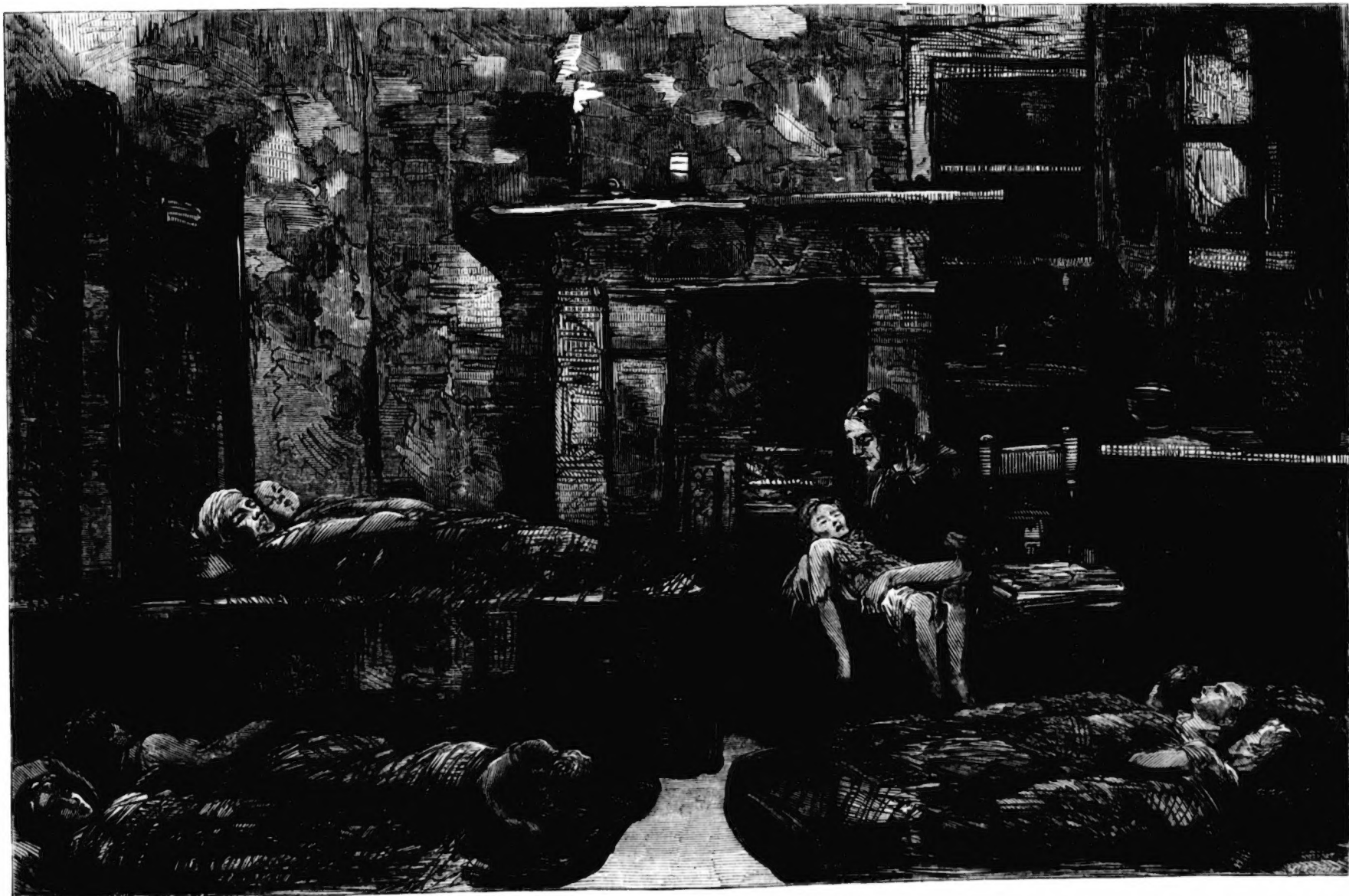
THE DWELLINGS OF THE POOR IN BETHNAL-GREEN.—THE STATE OF THE WATER SUPPLY.

complaints as this. It is equally certain that if the parochial authorities content themselves with an enforced amendment of Thorold-square alone, while a score of insufferably worse places, extending over a district which reaches from Shoreditch to Old Ford, continue to be centres of pestilence, very little will be done towards those thorough sanitary measures which it is hoped the Home Office will rigidly demand. The reply of the parochial board to the reports which have already reached the public of the utterly loathsome and filthy condition of this close and populous district is that they are

exaggerated. It is not too much to affirm that no language permitted by ordinary delicacy would adequately express the horrible condition of many of the fetid courts and alleys in this district, where human beings are huddled together in the lowest stage of human wretchedness.

Let anybody who doubts this walk down to Shoreditch and plunge into that labyrinth of streets which lies around "Friars-mount." Let him, if he can discover them (for the names of half the streets are obliterated, and are only known by the initiated),

traverse Old Nichols-street, New Nichols-street, and Half Nichols-street, and dare the blind alleys, the foul squares of rotten sties misnamed houses, the dark and reeking alleys which cluster around this horrible family of slums. Many of these are entered by narrow archways, which are like mere doors cut in the walls of the houses, behind which lie the places to which they lead. Some of them, forming three sides of ruinous hovels, dark, undrained, and without yards of their own, seem to have been built upon the yards of the houses through which they are approached. Others are wretched



ATTIC OCCUPIED BY A FAMILY OF TEN PERSONS.

rows of tenements rotting behind wooden palings, which inclose nothing but a slough of mud or decaying vegetable matter, or the accumulated filth of a dozen habitations. Almost all of them exhibit two horrible peculiarities of Bethnal-green—the two or three places convenience, common to the entire row or square, are in front of the houses, and the water supply is obtained from a single tap, which increases the mud in one dirty corner by being turned on for half an hour or so in the afternoon. To procure part of this scanty supply, wretched, haggard women, sickly and prematurely old children, and sometimes slipshod and despairing-looking men, come day after day with saucepans, earthen pans, pails, and such small vessels. It may be easily imagined what is the condition of that water, after having been kept for a night in a room where a whole family is crowded together without the means of common decency or cleanliness.

This neighbourhood of the foul Nichols', "Old," "New," and "Half," is morally, perhaps, the worst quarter of Bethnal-green. Thieves and prostitutes live in many of the houses, some of which in these comparatively main thoroughfares are ready to fall in upon their swarming inhabitants or out upon the footway. There is little distinction in the condition of the people or of their rooms, however, whether they half live by vice or half starve at such poor trades as can be carried on in such a place. The dark, steep, broken, and filthy stairs, the black and crumbling ceilings, the bare and broken walls, show no effort on the part of anybody to render them tenable. Undrained, unwashed, and scantily supplied with water, the rooms underlet to such an extent that one wretched garret (unfurnished, except with a rude bedstead or two, and some filthy bedding) will be made to contain ten persons, each house, from garret to cellar, is full of evil influences. As caneworkers, lucifer match-box makers, and such like callings, the people are mostly employed. There is, of course, a proportion of tailors and shoemakers. Many of the mere hovels are inhabited by costermongers, and in the stifled yards (where there are any) they keep their donkeys. If the adventurous visitor believes that he has now seen the worst we will not contradict him; but there are yet other elements with which he will become more familiar as he progresses eastward. To witness the curing and smoking of fish in places so loathsome that to enter them and breathe the sickly stench is too much for a robust but unaccustomed stomach to bear, for ten minutes, is bad enough; but still worse is the neighbourhood of foul slaughter-houses, undrained cowsheds, and the effluvia of pigsties hidden in fetid corners, and adding their special odours and their special diseases to the rest. Thorold-square, with its ruinous tenements and the decayed pump which, in the midst of an area of foul mud, supplies the inhabitants with water, is but a mild indication of what the traveller has seen who has exhausted what Friars-mount has to show. Hollybush-place—its crowded cowshed and its evidences of recent pigs notwithstanding—is creditable when compared with what may be witnessed in Twiggly.

It may be asked how people can long endure such a condition of physical wretchedness. The question is difficult to answer; but it is certain that they will endure almost anything rather than "go into the house," that is, than become union paupers. Some of them can earn no more than from six to ten shillings a week, and on this as many children have to subsist. Of what their food is composed can only be known on close inquiry, even when they apply for and obtain the dole of parish bread. Throughout the neighbourhood there are shops where inferior butchers' meat seems to be nearly superseded by offal, or by what butchers call offal. Cowheels, tripe of the darkest and thinnest description, unsavoury-looking sausages, saveloys, black puddings, and "faggots," a local penny delicacy made from the interior portions of the pig. Of what quality is the milk which comes from those sheds so close to fever-haunted courts? Whence comes the pork which goes to make up these cheap and ready-cooked viands to which people resort who have but twopenny to spend, and have a fireless grate at home?

We have written the word "home," but it is almost impiety to associate with it any meaning which can attach to the dens of Bethnal-green. Their existence is a national crime, and that they have existed for so long is pretty plain evidence that they will yield to nothing short of direct legislative interference.

TERRIBLE COLLIERY EXPLOSION IN SOUTH WALES.

On Saturday morning last, at 10.30, an explosion took place at the Morfa Colliery, three miles from the Port Talbot station, Glamorgan-shire, by which thirty-seven persons have lost their lives.

The Morfa Colliery (in which two previous accidents have occurred) is situated about eight miles from Neath. It is the property, or situated on the estate, of Mr. C. R. M. Talbot, M.P., and Lord Lieutenant of the county, but is leased to and worked by the Messrs. H. Hussey Vivian, M.P., and Sons, Mr. Pendarvis Vivian being the resident manager.

The Morfa Colliery is one of the largest in South Wales, and, to convey some faint idea of its size and importance, we may mention the following particulars:—Generally speaking, there are about 800 colliers engaged in the pit, which works between 600 and 700 tons of coal per day, and which is shipped at Port Talbot, Neath, and Swansea. The colliery is known as a "fiery" one, has literally miles of underground workings, is ventilated by means of a furnace with two shafts for the down and return air, and is always worked with looked safety-lamps.

When the explosion of Saturday morning last occurred there were about 400 men in the pit, but the effect of the explosion was happily confined to the old nine-foot vein, where forty-three men and boys were at work.

The foul gases, or chokedamp, having been partially cleared off, a number of workmen volunteered to go down the pit to render what assistance they could to their comrades. A gang of colliers from the Cwmavon Colliery deserve especial mention for their courage. They in one or two instances risked their lives to rescue the nearly expiring sufferers, and happily their exertions were crowned with success. One poor old man named Stephens was in an almost frantic state upon hearing of the explosion. He had a little boy, twelve or fourteen years of age, in the heading where the explosion occurred. Three times did the father descend the pit in the hope of rendering aid to his child, and twice was he driven back by the firedamp. He descended a third time, and reached the scene, but only to find his son dead. The body was brought up in a sack, the father helping to carry it, though evidently suffering the deepest anguish. Another case was that of a man named Williams, who was working in the old nine-foot seam in company with his son at the time of the accident. The son was completely overpowered and fell, but the father caught up the body in his arms, and, although weak and much exhausted himself, carried it a considerable distance. He was, however, soon compelled to drop his boy in the roadway and hurry on to the bottom of the shaft to save his own life. Both were brought out alive, but the son has since expired.

Upwards of twenty bodies have been recovered; but, from the number of men still missing, it is believed that not less than thirty-seven lives will be lost by this calamity.

The cause of the explosion has not yet been ascertained, but it has transpired that several of the men were in the habit of smoking in the workings, and probably the catastrophe has been caused by their uncovering their lamps in order to light their pipes.

THE PERSIAN GULF TELEGRAPH.—The conductor of the Persian Gulf line weighs 225 lb. to the nautical mile, and is surrounded by 275 lb. of gutta-percha per mile for its insulation. The core thus formed is padded with a spiral ribbon of hemp saturated in tar mixture, the hemp in turn being surrounded spirally by ten No. 7 iron wires. Finally, the entire cable, so constructed, is lapped with yarn over its external circumference and served with a composition of pitch, tar, and silica, laid on at a heat of 300 deg. Fahr., for the purpose of preserving the outer iron wires from oxidation.

A NEW COMET.—A new comet was discovered on the 14th at Marseilles by M. Tempel. He describes it as telescopic, its position being, right ascension 9 deg. 32 min. 44 sec., and declination 34 deg. 7 min. In the course of an hour it increased a little both in right ascension and declination, so that it seems to be moving in a north-westerly direction. About the same time a comet was perceived at Amiens; but it does not seem to be the same, since it is described as having a tail of an apparent length of two metres, while M. Tempel's is telescopic, with a mere rudiment of a tail.

OUR FEUILLETON.

THE LONG RECKONING.

(Continued from page 251.)

CHAPTER IV.

Lady De Vergund's equipage, with coal-black steeds caparisoned richly, and splendid liveries and deep-fringed hammer-cloth, all purple and gold, bore away from Lady Girandole's door as scanty a freight of contentment and peace of mind as ever rolled smoothly on patent axles and luxurious springs. Was it because she had broken with her lover? I fear that was too ordinary an occurrence to go for much. She had weighed Sydney Whitmarsh in her balance and found him wanting. He had no depth of earnestness in him for good or evil. He was a vacillating trifler, with a plausible show of talent and energy—a handsome, dashing, amusing man of fashion, with a tolerably successful air of importance. She was tired of him.

And was it not full time? Had he not been hankering after his beautiful cousin while he continued to dangle about herself? She was ashamed to have wasted her time upon him, and, what was worse, to have wasted jealousy. To have tightened her hold upon him when she might so much better have let him go long since, before any suggestive revelation of the formidable claws a slighted tigress has in reserve should have started in the velvet caress. And now he had been liberated from the bondage of her love too late to be of service to her hate. Having had occasion to be jealous of Lady Helen, she had too readily taken it for granted that Lady Helen cared about her cousin. It was clear she did not.

Moreover, her own diversion of Lord Beltane's attention had failed to elicit any side-glance of anxiety about him. Sydney Whitmarsh and Lord Beltane were the two men with whom Lady Helen had been longest acquainted. She had known them during that dreamy dawn of non-come-out young ladyhood, when the first instalment of an imaginative and susceptible heart is so easily bestowed on the first comer. Lord Bexteyrmon was one of Beltane's guardians. It was the most natural arrangement in the world that she should have loved Beltane, "and very lovable the young man is. What can I do to prosper his suit? Perhaps nothing better than keep out of his way."

And Lady De Vergund was affected by the thought of her loneliness among the stormy eddies of her restless life, as tempest-tossed mariners on their desolate raft will think of the glassy calm of land-locked havens where vessels float side by side in quiet waters, "embittering their wretched plight with visions of safety, and sunshine, and Sabbath bells." "Ah! had it been otherwise!" she sighed.

While her Ladyship was thus commiserating herself as a victim of circumstances on her metaphorical wrecks and rafts, the carriage turned glibly under the tall armorial gateway of De Vergund House.

Though everything that was, was wrong in her moral and metaphorical world, the coachman drew up correctly, the tall footmen jumped down nimbly, the porter had the door open in time to finish his interrupted snore in the open air; the pendent lamps in spacious portico, hall, and staircase were well trimmed; at the archway on the landing Mdlle. Celestine was ready with her stereotyped French smile and rose-tinted taper to light her mistress along the crimson carpet strip—over the glittering oaken parquet of the picture-gallery—past glimmering white statues and colossal busts of Roman worthies and unworthies, frowning in perennial bronze from porphyry pedestals in the corridor.

At each end of this long corridor were projections upon the garden front which went by the household names of my Lord's wing and my Lady's wing, each containing a suite of apartments appropriated to the sole and separate use of either moiety of this domestic pair.

Lord and Lady De Vergund afforded each other such social support and repute of domesticity as British institutions award to husbands and wives who at least live under the same roof. If the roof be long enough to allow seventy or eighty feet of intermediate space between the high contracting parties to a matrimonial alliance, that is a domestic detail which British institutions are not inquisitorial to take note of.

My Lady's apartments were bright with waxlights, mirrors, gay, silken, gold-embroidered Oriental draperies, and all that bric-a-brac bijouterie and decorative art can accomplish.

Innumerable little bouquets of violets, in quaint little Persian vases, in tall, twisted Venetian beakers, in miniature milkpails upon the heads of ancient Dresden shepherdesses, in every sort of contrivance—violet, white and purple, seemed to freshen the air with their dewy, new-gathered fragrance.

Nor were substantial comforts lost sight of. One small table, clothed with snowy damask, was laid with a picturesque little supper. A galantine, tessellated with truffles and pistachio-nuts, surrounded by plovers' eggs embedded in jelly. Lettuce in a bowl of Raphael ware, the crisp, light green leaves contrasting with the preternaturally deep blue sky through which a raven was carrying a large loaf to a conjecturable Elijah, buried in salad. Fruits that ignored their season, blushed (possibly at the thought of their market-price in Covent-garden) in baskets of silver. A Neapolitan baker, in Capodimonte porcelain, stooped under his load of tiny rolls. A silver cauldron, hung by a tall trivet over a spirit flame, kept a supply of soup gently simmering, and a hook-nosed old witch, crouching beside it, held out her apron full of *croûtons*. Amphore of glass, in golden tripods, contained purple and amber vintages. Circe of old could not have replenished her perilous cup out of more classical decanters.

Mdlle. Celestine is a discreet person; she perceives my Lady is out of sorts. She does not trouble my Lady with any officious assiduities. She guards herself from uttering an unnecessary word. She does what is requisite as quickly as possible, and relieves my Lady of her presence.

Now that Celestine is gone and the door bolted, Lady De Vergund paces to and fro in her boudoir like the leopards in the zoological cages. Suddenly a cold shudder comes over her, and she crouches down by the fire. Soon the shivering changes to a feverish heat and a smothering sense of oppressed breathing. She draws aside the curtain, opens the window, and looks out into the night.

The sickly moonlight slants across the dingy garden, thwarted with the sombre shadow of my Lord's wing. There is no light from my Lord's windows, which are on her own level, but in the story above Dr. Mervyn's lamp is burning.

Dr. Mervyn is the domestic physician. He is said to have performed next door to a miracle on the Marquis's right eye and left arm. He is a young doctor, with modern lights. He deals in mesmeric influences, odylic powers, electro-biology, and kine-sympathy. The servants consider him a practitioner of the black arts, and the habitués of De Vergund House call him the "wizard" and the "familiar spirit."

It is whispered by some malicious tongues that the Marchioness is not so grateful as she should be for his therapeutic services to her Lord. But then it is also whispered that she has an understanding with him that she is to be a widow within a given period. It is whispered that the doctor is an object of intense loathing to her, also that his introduction to the household originated in a love affair with the Marchioness; also that he is an illegitimate son of the Marquis by a Russian Jewess; also that he is a Jesuit priest, a son of Cardinal Antonelli by a celebrated prima donna, appointed to superintend and audit the deeply-involved consciences of the De Vergund family.

All this means no more than that Dr. Mervyn had something mysterious about him, and that the terms on which he appeared to be with his patrons formed a subject of vague conjecture to their set.

Rather a miscellaneous set it was, such as a fine house, excellent dinners, high rank, and a beautiful woman to do the honours, can gather without reference to character. The set were the people who dined. All the world went to her when she gave a ball. The picture-gallery of De Vergund House was one of the best ballrooms in London. Her set did not command the elements of great evening parties. All the world would not have gone to them. It required

the impetus of dancing daughters to draw the highest order of British mothers into that splendid abode.

Lady De Vergund maintained a bold front to the world, and showed herself in society wherever her appearance was useful in keeping her place in the world. But, like most people whose consciences are of a shade darker dye than the fair average, she did not appear without an effort. A bad conscience is a most uncomfortable thing to carry about with you when you go out in full dress to be looked at by the world at large. Beneath the "oak and triple bronze about her breast," she suffered continual pangs of anxious misgiving about that "frail bark," her reputation. Society is a "perilous sea to sail in unless you stand 'A 1,' copper-fastened," in the register.

Careless people talk of the imparity of a great lady whose peccadilloes are floated by her rank. But who can tell what a wretched imparity it is?

A water-logged ship floats; but with what a laborious straining, and clanking, and gurgling of the chain-pumps!—with what agonising qualms when the water deepens in the hold! Think of all the real or imagined slights such a woman must meet with a cheerful, unconscious, smiling face, while she ships a staggering sea from the "true pelagus," and the flashing volley of spray smites her on the cheek and whistles by her tingling ears. Lady De Vergund has shipped some social seas to-night. She feels weak and helpless in her anger. Wind and tide are against her.

The time has come when the long-cherished scheme of vengeance should be ripening. Now or never the slowly-festering grudge must be brought to a head and discharge its virus; and the benevolent reader may or may not be deeply grieved for Lady De Vergund's sake to learn that the crisis to which affairs were coming cost her not a few throes of painful anxiety, doubt, and misgiving.

Nor was it to be wondered at that she did not find her undertaking shape itself easily, for it was all up-stream effort, and the natural current of circumstance was dead against her.

Labourers in the Egyptian bonds of iniquity find it comparatively light toil to mould their bricks of mischief when the enemy finds them in straw to mat the mud together. Making mischief against misconducted people is pretty pastime for ingenious persons.

The evildoers (who work in iron as well as clay, and in yarn not so well as iron) are in the constant habit of suspending sound and ponderous specimens of sword cutlery by rotten and treacherous strands of cotton twist over their own heads; so that it requires but a slight application of force or dexterity to bring down a shower of cutlasses about their ears at any appropriate moment.

But it takes a good deal of delicate conjuring to produce this uncomfortable meteoric phenomenon out of a clear sky on the heads of harmless people who have no occasion to roof out the wholesome daylight from their deeds. And, even if the necromancer succeeded in causing ever so copious a fall of weapons,

Thrice is he helmed whom innocency crowns.

Wicked persons in stories are usually represented as wonderfully successful in causing distress and embarrassment to blameless souls during at least two volumes and a half out of three; and though poetical justice comes up hobbling on her lame foot at last, it is only by a preternatural stupidity which (with other qualities, all on a superhuman scale) peculiarly belongs to heroes and heroines that the mischief-makers can be maintained so long in their career of prosperous malevolence.

Luckily, in real life virtuous people, blessed with ordinary prudence and commonsense, are not so easily circumvented. The respectable world is understood to be, on the whole, rather too many for the villain of the piece.

Lady De Vergund, accordingly, had found it a grievous impediment to her machinations that Edmund Strensal himself and his immediate circle of relatives and connections were such lamentably respectable, inoffensive, steady-going, duty-performing British subjects as to offer very scanty materials for her ingenuity to lay hold of.

After her marriage she did her best, on her own, her enemy's, and her husband's account, to get up a *rechauffé* of the sentiment which had caused so much tribulation and disappointment to her former admirer, John Jarwith. She justly considered that to destroy Margaret's happiness and to sow discord between him and his brother-in-law would be a fertile source of misery to the object of her hatred.

If Lord Gaveloch had but been constructed with the average allowance of male vanity, curiosity, and fickleness, he had been by this time quite long enough married to be reasonably tired of his wife; only it so happened that he was not. Lady De Vergund's siren wiles wrought him no more serious inconvenience than a passing shudder at the thought of what he had once felt for her; and he avoided her ever after, as if her beauty were a symptom of some contagious pestilence.

As to investigating any of her own detached admirers to sap the foundations of Margaret's fidelity to her husband, that was totally hopeless. Margaret was perfectly happy. Her John was the best, and kindest, and noblest, and most loving of men; and her little Johns, and Ernests, and Margarets, and Matildas soon began to circle her round, like a legion of cherubs fresh from Paradise, sufficient to keep all the powers of darkness at a respectful distance.

Strensal had kept her waiting a long while for an opportunity to meddle with his matrimonial projects by neglecting to entertain any. So that again and again Julia had repented of her injudicious interference on a former occasion, which she no doubt considered much more effectual than it really was. Judging after the event, and seeing what Adela had since become, she regretted most sincerely not to have done all in her power for, instead of against, the match. But, then, who could tell, while she was so young, and lovely, and charming, how exquisitely bad a wife poor dear Adela would have made? By the time this capability dawned upon her it was too late, for it had dawned likewise on the enemy.

And now there was this troublesome Lady Helen, beautiful, and pure, and good, full of spirit and intelligence, not easily to be hoodwinked or turned aside from her genuine preference. Lady De Vergund did not stand by while that encounter between Whitmarsh and Strensal was going on without perceiving how completely Helen's sympathies leaned to the latter's side. She had seen how Helen resented the disparaging innuendoes and the under-current of mocking irony which pervaded Whitmarsh's pseudo-complimentary allusions to Strensal's recent course in Parliament. She had seen how Helen smiled when the frank and plain rejoinders, which seemed but goodhumoured parries of the covert thrusts, once or twice told like hard hits, and almost overset the bantering aggressor from the balance of his complacency.

It was clear that Lady Helen was favourably disposed, and, whether Strensal was seriously attracted as yet or not, Lady De Vergund's instinct and intuition assured her that Helen was the very woman to attract him.

Unluckily, she could bring no direct influence to bear upon Helen, for the Bexteyrmonts, she knew, looked on her as a dangerous person and a stumbling-block in the path of their nephew Sydney; and, even before her reputation had suffered any touch of tarnish, Lady Bexteyrmon and the Wrottesworth connection generally (including even Lady Ormesdale, whose husband was her mother's first cousin) disapproved of her and kept her at arm's length.

Lady Girandole, Ormesdale's sister, retained a certain tenderness for the memory of Julia's mother, a contemporary of her girlhood. She was not a severe matron, having had no daughters. And, besides, the Asperhythe property commanded considerable parliamentary influence in Vilissex; and Lord Girandole did not encourage his wife to sacrifice political support for the sake of prudish scruples, otherwise, perhaps, Lady De Vergund's picturesque presence might not have adorned her Ladyship's assembly.

Let that be as it might, a train must be laid to explode this combination which threatened to confer so great a boon of fortune and happiness on the man she hated. Her materials were not promising. A careful study of Strensal's history had put her in possession of nothing better adapted to her purpose than Lady Adela's grievance. That must be made the most of; but it was not enough to do more than create a temporary misunderstanding, dress it up as she would, and do what she could to vamp up the old story into a second edition of gossip.

For anything really serious she would have to go still further back, and disinter the buried bones of a defunct predecessor to find or construct a tangible skeleton in the Strensal establishment. There was that still older story, alluded to in the last chapter of the second part of this history, about Arthur Strensal's suspected Scotch marriage, which, if proved, would invalidate his son's legitimacy.

Julia some years back had conceived great hopes from this source, and taken some pains to investigate the matter. There was some substance in it which did not rest merely on the tradition of a vague rumour.

Her friend Lucy Strensal, who combined the family pride commonly flourishing in minor branches of great family trees with the ferreting instincts derived from the maternal tincture of Mazzard blood, had a specialty for heraldic and genealogical researches, and busied herself with elaborating a family history of the Strensals in all their ramifications. Edmund did not care much for these things, but good-naturedly encouraged her zeal, gave her free access to the sweepings of fallen leaves from the genealogical tree heaped in the Thorskelf muniment-room, and eventually furnished funds to print a hundred or so of the result, which, being full of coats of arms and facsimiles of charters, and seals, and monumental brasses, perhaps cost him about five guineas per copy. All this part of the transaction signifies very little. But one large element of the litter in the Thorskelf archives consisted in accumulations of the unsorted correspondence of Edmund Strensal the grandfather, which from time to time had been shovelled in by deskfuls. By the quantity of letters he had failed to burn there must have been a strong conservative instinct in the mind of that influential promoter of the Reform Bill. And, though Conservatism may tend to "order" in politics, it is not so in letters.

In her ransackings and rummagings Lucy came upon a letter docketed "A's Scotch scrap; unanswered." It was a letter in a round, legal hand, in a style half supplicatory, half minatory, setting forth the wrongs and claims of Janet Macfarlane, a cousin of the applicant, who signed herself "James Adam Macfarlane, Writer." It was asserted that Captain Arthur Strensal had lived maritally with the aforesaid, and that she had passed as his wife, and evidence could be adduced to establish a marriage. The latter part, however, seemed to point to the alternative of a pecuniary compromise. The date was more than a year earlier than the deaths of either of the elder brothers of this Captain Arthur, and three years anterior to his marriage with Lady Matilda Grazebrook. At the time of the letter's receipt, when there was no likelihood of this third son falling into the succession, it had evidently been treated with contemptuous indifference, and so had lost itself in the litter. She was unable to find any traces of subsequent negotiation. When the matter became grave, no doubt its records would be carefully disposed of. This letter Lucy took the liberty of copying, and put it in a place where she could find it again. This discovery was communicated to Julia, whose interest in the matter Lucy, at that time, attributed to a smouldering passion for her brother Mark. That hopeful young man, figuring in his fond sister's antiquarian romance as "the rightful heir," whom Julia, the sympathising heroine, was to espouse when he duly came by his own.

One of Julia's adventures, years ago, had been to go to a private intelligence office in the city and institute an investigation as to the whereabouts of this James Adam Macfarlane; and in due time, after a considerable outlay, she was informed that the individual in question had six years before undergone a sentence of fourteen years transportation for a will forgery. This revelation did not tempt her for the moment to proceed further with her investigations. But the term of years must now have nearly expired; and under the indulgent administration of the penal laws, especially with an attorney and a Caledonian, probably astute and religious, for a culprit, she might calculate on a handsome deduction from the full time of his sentence. If this respectable practitioner could be raked up, and any amount of pecuniary inducement could extract a true statement of the facts of the case, Lady De Vergund trusted in her ingenuity to found something feasible upon it.

Enough may be made of Adela to put Lady Helen a little on her guard and gain time by perplexing her with doubts about Strensal. He is not a swift wooer. In the meantime we may get the Macfarlane business into a shape, such as may at least retard his advances by scruples as to the security of the position he has to offer her. She will misinterpret his delay. And at worst, if nothing practicable comes of the Macfarlane investigation, rumours founded on it may be circulated skillfully. The world is always ready to believe that a man in his position, who does not marry early, has some mysterious impediment. Every month of delay will tell in young Beltane's favour.

CHAPTER V.

In the meantime, a conversation was taking place by moonlight in the Apsley-gardens.

"Strensal," said Whitmarsh, "your manner to me to-night was intolerable."

"That is a strong word for peaceable times like these. What was there in it to complain of? If you can show me anything that I ought to be sorry for, I shall be very willing to say I am sorry. But, before you begin, let me tell you that I did not much like your manner to me either. I will stop short of the expression you made use of, and only say that your manner to me was just tolerable. Now let us hear what's the matter, and if you can remind me of anything I said that I ought not to have said, I will beg your pardon."

"That's all my eye! I can't repeat words; nor is it words I complain of; very harmless words may become extremely offensive by the manner of saying them. What I do complain of, and what I won't stand, is an infernally bumptious assumption of moral superiority, and a supercilious tone of contemptuous indifference such as you have no right to use, and which, in short, I won't stand."

"I cannot plead guilty to infernally bumptious assumption, and I think you are making things worse by using such terms."

"I don't care whether I make things worse or better. I meant to tell you my mind, and I tell it you. You are bumptious; you are self-righteous, and you want taking down a peg or two."

"You are very candid; but you seem to me to have lost that equanimity which is requisite to enable a man to judge his neighbour fairly. If you had remonstrated with me calmly to-morrow morning, and expressed yourself seriously and earnestly to the same purpose in less obnoxious terms, I might have been inclined to think I had been in the wrong. As it is, I do not feel in the least humiliated by your intertemperate censure. You came up and pitched into me with a lot of not over delicate or good-humoured chaff; and if you got a backhander or two in a scrimmage of your own seeking, it served you right."

"Oh! I thought as much. You deliberately intended to offend me."

"I intended nothing of the sort. I defended myself without any desire to offend you. I am willing to allow that I sincerely think you got the worst of it then, and that you are making things worse instead of better by the present discussion."

"I want no discussion. I have told you what I think of you; and if I have not spoken plain enough to reach you."

"You have spoken quite plain enough to reach the limits of my patience. I shall soon have to begin to tell you what I won't stand, and to express in plainer language than I have yet used what I think of your conduct."

"I shall be delighted to hear all you have to say: and I am glad to see that you are beginning to lose that equanimity, &c., &c. I forget the exact paraphrase of polite prose in which you were good enough to hint to me that I had lost my temper. If a man means to be insolent, I had rather have the naked iron of his weapon in my ribs than the varnished leather of his scabbard flourished in my face."

"What! are you talking about swords? Come now, do you seriously propose an appeal to arms? If a fellow wants fighting, fighting in one shape or another he must have. It is vain to argue with a man when he is in that mood. But I should have thought we were old enough to know better than drive things to that sort of extremity. You may apply certain epithets to me which will

force me to pitch into you, and you have run rather near the wind already. But it would not do you any good, and to-morrow morning you would be sorry. Just think, if we came to blows, and the watchman, whom we saw asleep on the bench just now, were to wake up and call the constables, how well it would look in the police-sheet."

"CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO COUNTY MEMBERS.—Messrs. W. and S., the respected members for Balderland and Hoderford—the former Under-Secretary of the Tick and Docket Office, the latter a chairman of Quarter Sessions—were apprehended in flagrant breach of the peace, at two this morning, in Apsley-gardens, whither they had repaired, as it appears, to settle a difference after leaving Lady Girandole's assembly. The appearance in court of these honourable members created no little sensation. The M.P. for Balderland exhibited severe contusions, greatly disfiguring his nose and left eye, while the representative of Hoderford had to deplore the expulsion of about half a dozen of his front teeth. Many years ago I had the misfortune to knock half a dozen teeth down a quarrelsome fellow-creature's throat, and I shall never forget the unpleasant sensation it caused me when I picked him up for dead; and, indeed, it was touch and go that he did not choke. He was a fire-eating person, too, and it happened in a country where the survivor in a fatal duel is not usually hanged for murder; but the affair did not proceed to pistols."

"What has all that got to do with the question? I did not ask you for anecdotes of your prowess. I know very well you are an accomplished bruiser, and that at Cambridge you thought it consistent with a high moral code of muscular Christianity to thrash big barges in Town and Gown rows."

"I only wish to recall vividly to your apprehension the fact that fighting is a horrible species of stupidity, which men of mature age and intelligence should know better than meddle with. I know you have plenty of pluck, and you fought a good fight with me in the playing-fields when we were boys. But your temper is hasty, and it seems to me you have been carried away by a vehement impulse towards strong language without reflecting how indifferent an issue such a relaxation of self-restraint leads to. In these days, when duels are out of the question, men ought to exercise a much more scrupulous forbearance towards each other than when rapiers and pistols were tolerated by the law. Otherwise, there is danger of male society lapsing into that incontinence of tongue which the want of an ultimate appeal leads to—the irritable wranglings of clergymen and ladies. The law has repressed swords and pistols, but, *expellas naturam*, civilisation has got back, if not into its second childhood, at least as far as its second boyhood; and the humanist remains as the ultimate exponent of human pugnacity."

"The long and short of all which is that if I don't mind what I am about you may feel bound to pitch into me, or, as you would say in your choice philological phraseology, 'physically impugn' me. And you are good enough at the same time to remind me that you are a skilful pugilist and a champion of the heavy weights. Will you tell me in what material particular such a method of putting things differs from vulgar bullying? Or what remedy I have, supposing me to be a lighter weight or less capable of using my 'ultimate exponents' than you are?"

"A vulgar bully is usually the aggressor in a quarrel; and that you must allow I have not been, either here or yonder. You would have required no remedy if you had not put yourself in the wrong; for you are in the wrong, and you know it as well as I do."

"By Jove! I believe your knuckles are tingling for an 'ultimate appeal' with the 'ultimate exponents.' I know I would give a thousand pounds for half an hour of that ring in the playing-fields. I did floor you twice, and marked you well on the head."

"You were fifteen to my fourteen, and you were half a head taller than me in those days. But, if you must have fighting, there is a good moon, and this is a quiet place. Nobody can see us through those bushes from Park-lane; the watchman may not wake up. If you are found insensible in Park-lane, remember to let the police suppose you have been garrotted. I will take your watch and valuables. There will be no falsehood in slapping your waistcoat pocket and crying 'My watch is gone!' You can send for them when you want them. I know a particular cut which is very apt to break the jawbone; and there is nothing disreputable in being garrotted. Remember to relieve me of my valuables, if you come off victorious. They are sure to suspect something unless the watch and money are gone. By-the-way, now I think of it, I will wind my watch up. After all, there is nothing so pacific as a good fight. We were excellent friends for several years after our Eton mill, and perhaps one more now will last us our lives."

"Upon my word, Strensal, you are an original of the first water!" said Sydney Whitmarsh, whose wrath the reference to those ancient feuds of boyhood had sufficiently diverted to allow him to perceive the ridiculous side of the situation. He had gradually cooled as Strensal warmed. There was something so eminently absurd in two grave senators coming to fisticuffs, like a couple of schoolboys; and in his antagonist's practical provisions and precautions, to let the police lay the results to the charge of supposititious ticket-of-leave men, that, when Strensal (calmly winding up his watch) delivered his last apophthegm on the pacific influences of fighting, it was too much for Whitmarsh's gravity. On the whole, the best thing to be done under the circumstances was to laugh and make it up.

"Many thanks," he continued, for your friendly offer to break my jaw *secundum artem*, but I won't trouble you this time. I should have done better to hold it."

"If it comes to that, the sooner we shake hands and go home to bed the better. You may depend upon it we shall be glad to wake with our bones whole to-morrow morning."

"All right, old fellow. I have made an ass of myself; but, all the same (shaking hands), don't you give yourself such infernal airs of moral superiority another time."

"I will do my best, if you winnow your style of chaff a little, and keep your temper."

"I am not sure it would not be better to part with it and look out for another. You steady-going, moral philosophers don't know what a pestiferous conglomeration of wretched worries and trumpery annoyances an unlucky scapegrace like me may have to put him out. I was angry with many other things, only you seemed the most substantial, bodily presentation of something to quarrel with. I am ashamed of myself. Sorry to have given you this trouble. Good-night."

"Don't mention this row. Good-night."

"Depend upon it I won't. Will you treat it as *non avenue*?"

"What would be the use of an avenue which led to nothing? Let it be *non avenue*."

So they parted, without bloodshed, at the garden gate, nearly opposite the steps out of Seymour-place.

(To be continued.)

MR. CHARLES MATHEWS IN PARIS.—Mr. Charles Mathews took his farewell benefit on Saturday night at the Variétés. One of the pieces was "Un Anglais Timide." At the close of the "Anglais Timide" several of the old favourites of the Parisian public made their entry on the stage, and were most cordially received. Nothing could exceed the enthusiasm at the sight of Bouffé, who appeared in the costume of one of his old parts. Bouffé himself seemed much affected by his reception. Mr. Mathews must be greatly delighted with his success before a Paris audience, and the announcement that he meant to return next year was received with a burst of applause. The house was crowded to the very top, though the prices were doubled.

A CAUTIONARY DARKEY.—The New Orleans correspondent of the *New York Times* says:—"The other day I saw an old Uncle Tom, who, by-the-way, with his white hair, profuse white whiskers—a high, wide, but still retreating forehead, put me in mind of Martin Van Buren. This venerable specimen of a late institution was sitting on top of a roadside fence, watching with intense interest the first invasion into his neighbourhood of the d— Yankees. I stepped in front of the old man, and very abruptly asked him if he was for the Confederates or for the Yankees. A smile lit up his old face, and he looked like illuminated indiarubber; weather-beaten countenance until it looked like illuminated indiarubber; then he said in a coy manner that would have done honour to a young girl, 'Why, you see, master, taint for an old nigger like me to know anything 'bout politics.' Not content to let him off so easily, I queried rather sternly, 'Well, Sir, let me know which side you are on, any way?' The old darkey kept up his ineffable smile for a moment, and then assuming a gravity that was ridiculous, remarked, 'I'm on de Lord's side, and He'll work out His salvation; bress de Lord.' No one could catch that old darkey."

THE RUSSIANS IN POLAND.

THE military occupation of the whole of the Zamoyiski Palace is complete, and there have, of course, not been wanting faithful Russians who swear that they saw the grenade thrown from a window, although until lately nobody saw it thrown at all, and it is certain that none of the inhabitants of the house were directly implicated by any evidence whatever. It must be remembered, too, that the palace, of which the sack has been complete, is a different establishment, separate from, although nearly adjoining, the Zamoyiski House which was tenanted by numerous families; but it is now the fashion in Warsaw to require the best mansions, and often the most valuable portion of their contents, for the military authorities, and when once the Russian begins to covet it is easy enough to possess.

There are at this moment 60,000 troops and 1800 policemen in Warsaw. When a private residence is needed for the use of the soldiery, the occupiers (whether owners or tenants) are ordered out; five or ten hours, as the case may be, being given for removal of furniture and personal clothing. It is considered a comparative privilege to have ten hours' notice to quit your own house!

The energetic conduct of Colonel Hempel recently spared the Hôtel de l'Europe, in Warsaw, the fate of the Zamoyiski Palace. The Colonel was living in the hotel at the time of the murder of the spy Bertholdi. Awakened by the tumult, he rushed into the street and fired a pistol into the air to attract the troops. He then immediately gave orders to draw a cordon round the hotel, and to make a careful search in all the rooms. At the first intimation of the crime five officers of the guard had entered the place and began to plunder; but the Colonel took measures to stop these excesses, and had soldiers arrested who had appropriated various objects.

Some time passed before finding the body of Bertholdi, who had pursued his assassin as far as an adjoining house, but had there lost strength and fallen back dead in the shade.

After the troops arrived, Colonel Hempel assumed the presidency of the committee of inquiry nominated on the spot. The murderer was not discovered, as he succeeded in escaping from the hotel. The soldiers who occupied the house prevented the furniture from being removed, but the hotel remains confiscated to the Government. Far fewer persons were arrested upon this occasion than in the affair of the Zamoyiski Palace.

The horticultural establishment belonging to M. Hoser has been confiscated by the Russian authorities on account of a shot having been fired from the building.

The last considerable confiscation has been that of the Grabowski Palace, in the Meth Strasse. It is said that arms, cartridges, and uniforms were found on the premises. The proprietor and male inmates were arrested, and the palace was surrounded by military.

It has since been asserted that several hatchets and poniards and two revolvers were found during the search for arms. Even supposing this to be true, it is scarcely matter for wonder that in a large Polish house wood-hatchets should be part of the kitchen appointments; while there are few mansions in which some sort of weapon might not be found, especially a brace of revolvers. At all events, the purpose of the Russian soldier is answered—the proprietor has been arrested, the inhabitants expelled, and the place degraded to the position of a common barrack.

On Sunday the Hôtel de Ville of the Polish capital was discovered to be on fire in three places simultaneously. The fire is stated to have been unquestionably the work of incendiaries. The treasure-chests, securities, and other valuable objects were saved. The archives department is burnt down.

Advices from Warsaw state that all functionaries of Polish nationality are to be dismissed immediately if stationed on the frontiers, and from the 1st of January next if employed at Warsaw. It is asserted that the Russian language is to be employed in future in the acts of administration in Poland.

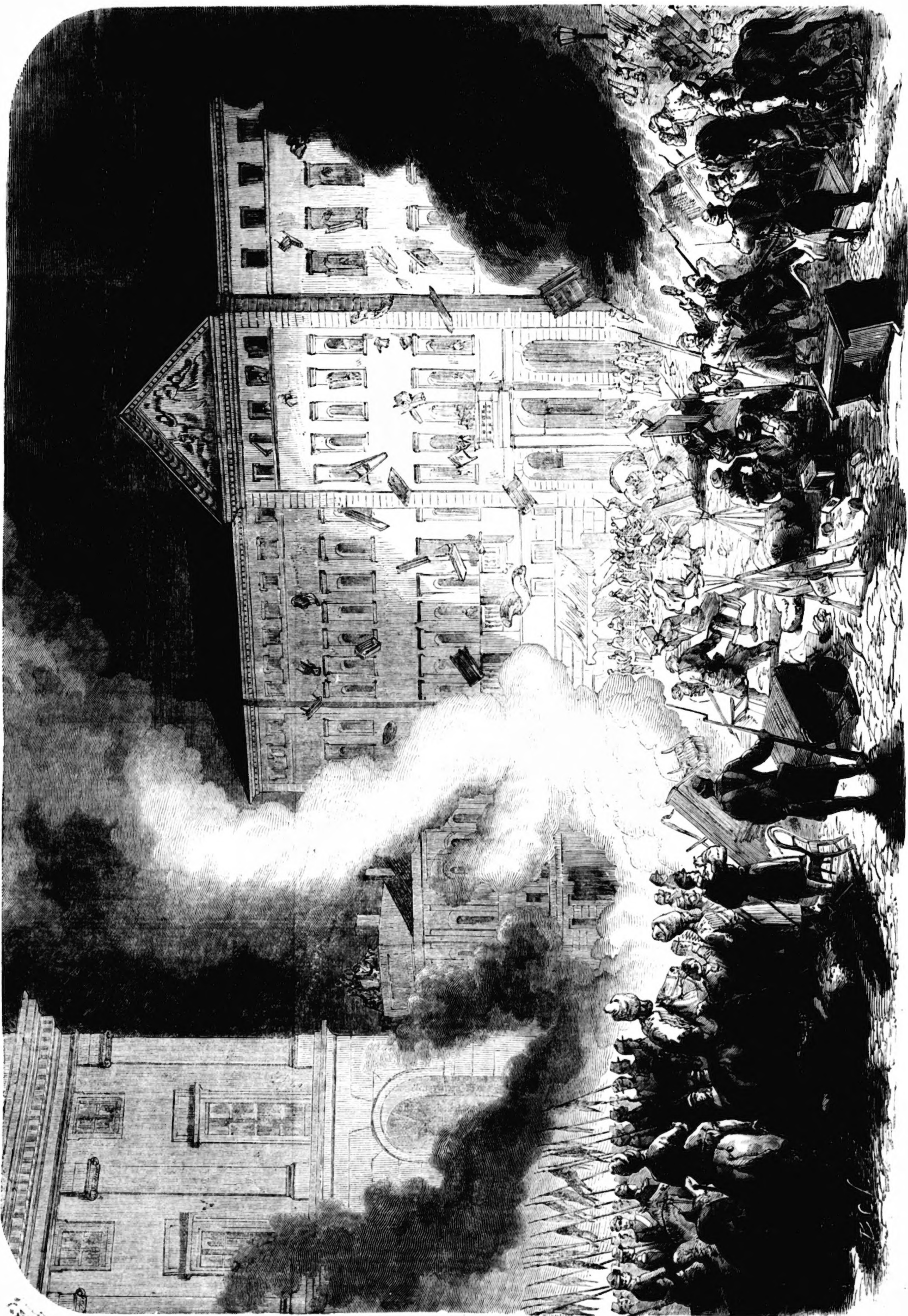
Vienna journals assert that the Polish insurrection is flaming up with renewed force in the governments of Plock and Cracow. Despite the extensive seizures of arms by the Austrian authorities, numerous detachments of volunteers are again hurrying across the Gallician frontier to assist the insurgents on Russian territory. The Russians meanwhile are straining every nerve to carry out in full force the policy of extermination which alone seems capable of quelling the Polish movement.

THE COUNCIL-GENERAL OF THE NORD, France, has adopted unanimously a motion in favour of complete liberty of trade; and that in the Manche one advocating a reform of the maritime inscription.

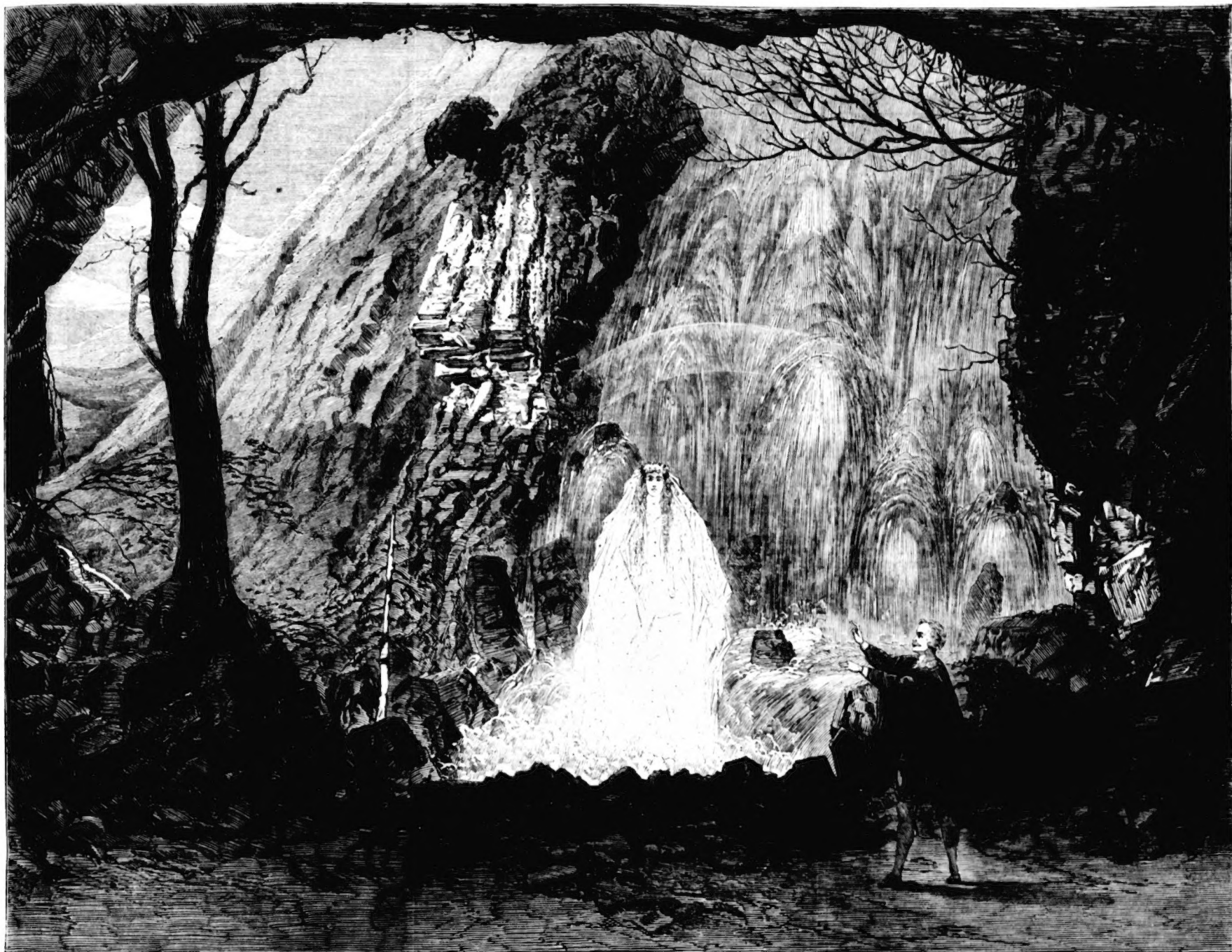
WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY.—The famous military academy at West Point, in the United States, was established in 1802. The purchase of the land and the education of the military cadets have cost the nation about seven million dollars. In 1779 it was the strongest fortified place in America. In 1782, when the United States had obtained their independence through the assistance of France, West Point was the scene of great festivities in honour of the birth of the Dauphin of France, and Washington danced in public on the occasion. West Point is also intimately associated with the death of the British Major André and the treason of the American General Arnold.

LIBERTY IN BALTIMORE.—The Rev. Mr. Gibson, a clergyman at Baltimore, received into his house some young gentlemen whom he educated. General Thomas, of the Federal army, wished to send his son to Mr. Gibson, and the clergyman said he should be most happy to receive the young gentleman, but thought it only proper to inform the General "that, in the most unhappy circumstances which now distract the country, all his pupils this year, without exception, advocated the Southern side; and that, such being the case, he did not think General Thomas's son would find it pleasant to be among them." Next day Mr. Gibson was taken before the military authorities and sent to prison.

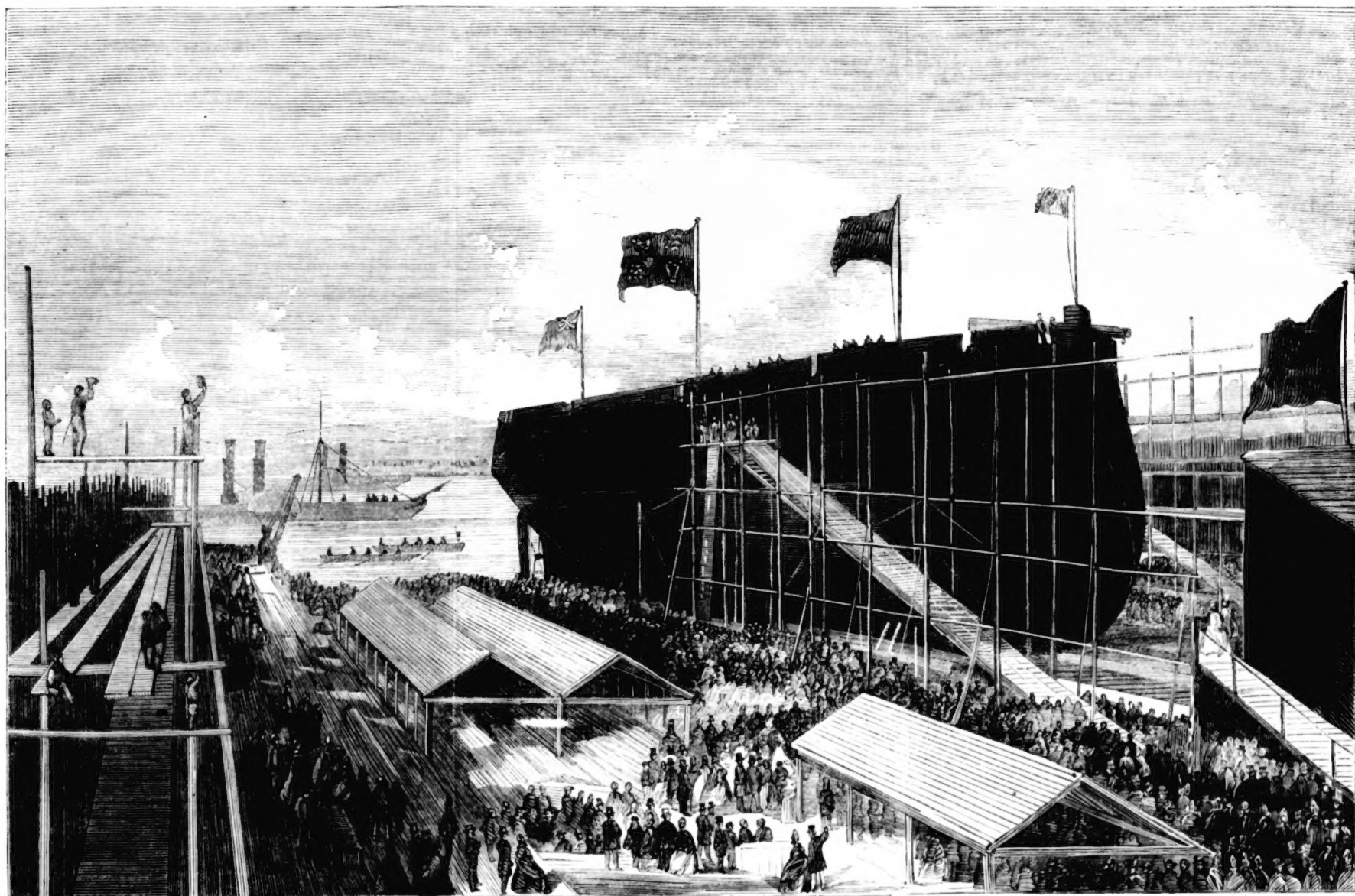
BETHNAL-GREEN AGAIN.—Mr. Joseph Prince, inspector of lodging-houses and dangerous tenements, applied to Mr. Leigh, at Worship-street Police Court, for his sanction to two orders to enforce the instant removal of the tenants of houses in Bethnal-green. The inspector said the orders were applied for under the 80th section of the 18th and 19th of Victoria, cap. 122, which states that where the district surveyor shall certify any structure to be dangerous to its inmates, any justice of the peace may direct the inmates to be removed, and, if they have no other place of abode, may require them to be received into the workhouse of the parish. In the structure shall be situated. The district surveyor, in company with himself, had carefully inspected three houses in on by-streets leading out of Shoreditch, but in Bethnal-green, and found them in a state extremely hazardous to the lives of the tenants, who were unusually numerous and very poor. It was obvious that the houses might fall in upon and crush them at any moment. The landlord, who seemed to agree with himself and the surveyor, had been ordered to pull them down within seven days. The inhabitants, however, would not move without compulsion, and he therefore asked for the magistrate's orders for the inmates of two of the houses to leave or be turned out immediately. The necessity of this would appear when he stated that, on one floor of the house No. 21 there was a family consisting of a man, his wife, and seven children, varying from seventeen to five years of age; on the second floor a family consisting of a man, his wife, and also seven children, varying from seventeen to four years of age, these apartments constituting, in fact, but one room; while on the third, or ground floor, the garret being empty, lived a child's toymaker, with a wife and a family almost as numerous. No. 20 was tenanted also by three families, each man with a wife and a numerous family. The house No. 19, from which they had already succeeded in removing the tenants, would be shored up strongly, or it would come down with the others. The whole were filthy and dilapidated. The party-wall between 20 and 21 bulged at the basement to the extent of at least 2 ft., and the whole brickwork throughout was so much fractured that it might fall at any moment. In the basement of No. 20 a great quantity of the dust and house refuse had not been removed for fourteen years, and it formed a mound through which a pathway had been made by constant treading, which led from a d to the entrances at the back and front. The water for drinking purposes was derived from a small tub without a lid in the midst of this heap; but only a very scanty supply was furnished, it not being on much more than twenty minutes at a time. There was no efficient drainage to take off the waste water, so that the basements were saturated by it and pools of stagnant water collected in the yards, which were unweeded, and contained a quantity of putrid vegetables which had not been removed for a long time. Mr. Leigh signed the orders, and the inspector left the court, but he had scarcely done so when two of the tenants made their appearance. They wished to know why they were to be turned out with such a short notice. One of them, a weaver, said he could not pull his work down in so short a time. He had been there a good while, and the house had been always in the same state. It was not more dangerous than it was before. Mr. Leigh said he must sign the order; the surveyor reported that the houses might fall in upon the inmates at any moment; they did not want, he supposed, to lose their lives, and it seemed they would certainly do so if allowed to stop there. The order was for their own protection. The two men left the court very much dissatisfied, and declaring they would not leave.



THE SACK OF THE ZAMOYSKI PALACE, WARSAW, BY RUSSIAN SOLDIERS.



SCENE FROM "MANFRED," AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—APPEARANCE OF THE WITCH OF THE ALPS.



LAUNCH OF THE VALIANT IRON-CLAD SCREW-RAM AT THE ADMIRALTY YARD, ISLE OF DOGS.

London: Printed and Published at the Office, 2, Catherine-street, in the Parish of St. Mary-le-strand, in the County of Middlesex, by THOMAS FOX, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 1833.